



EU pressures Iran on atom deal in last-ditch bid to save it

By LORNE COOK and DAVID RISING

BRUSSELS (AP) — Britain, France and Germany on Tuesday ratcheted up pressure on Iran to stop violating its landmark nuclear deal in a last-ditch effort to resolve their differences through talks while also starting a process that could bring back punishing U.N. sanctions on Tehran. The three European Union countries are being pressed on one side by U.S. President Donald Trump to abandon the agreement like he did unilaterally in 2018, and on the other side from Iran to provide enough economic incentives for them to roll back their violations. Now, the Europeans have reluctantly triggered the accord's dispute mechanism to force Iran into discussions, starting the clock on a process that could result in the "snapback" of U.N. and EU sanctions on Iran.

Continued on Page 8



A cleric walks on the U.S. and British flags while leaving a gathering to commemorate the late Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in Iraq in a U.S. drone attack on Jan. 3, and victims of the Ukrainian plane that was mistakenly downed by the Revolutionary Guard last Wednesday, at the Tehran University campus in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020.

Associated Press

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Democrats release new documents on eve of impeachment trial

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
and ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats have released a trove of documents they obtained from Lev Parnas, a close associate of President Donald Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, including a handwritten note that mentions asking Ukraine's president to investigate "the Biden case."

The documents show Parnas communicating with Giuliani and another attorney about the removal of Marie Yovanovitch, the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine. Parnas received messages from a man named Robert F. Hyde who appeared to be describing detailed surveillance of



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., joined by House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., leaves a lengthy closed-door meeting with the Democratic Caucus at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020.

Associated Press

Yovanovitch while she was in Ukraine. Democrats released the files Tuesday as they prepared to send articles of impeachment to the Senate for Trump's trial. The documents add new context to their charges that Trump pressured Ukraine to investigate Democrats as he withheld military aid to the country.

Parnas was in frequent communication with Giuliani and with Ukrainian officials as he worked as an intermediary, the messages show. Parnas appeared to be pushing unsubstantiated allegations that Democrat Joe Biden and his son, Hunter Biden, were somehow engaged in corruption in Ukraine.

Among the documents is a screenshot of a previously undisclosed letter from Giuliani to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy dated May 10, 2019, which was before Zelenskyy took office. In the letter, Giuliani announces himself as Trump's personal lawyer and requests a meeting

with Zelenskyy "as personal counsel to President Trump and with his knowledge and consent."

Also among the documents is a handwritten note on stationery from the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Vienna that says "get Zelensky to Annonce that the Biden case will be Investigated." Trump asked Zelenskyy in a July call to investigate his political rival, Democrat Joe Biden, and his son Hunter. Hunter Biden served on the board of a gas company based in Ukraine.

In a letter outlining the evidence, Democrats said that Parnas' attorney confirmed that Parnas wrote the notes.

The documents — including phone records, texts and flash drives turned over by Parnas — were sent to the House Judiciary Committee by three other House committees "to be included as part of the official record that will be transmitted to the Senate along with the Articles of Impeachment," according

to a statement. Some of the materials were made public while others were marked as sensitive.

Parnas and his business partner, Igor Fruman, both U.S. citizens who emigrated from the former Soviet bloc, were indicted last year on charges of conspiracy, making false statements and falsification of records. Prosecutors allege they made outsize campaign donations to Republican causes after receiving millions of dollars originating from Russia. Several of the documents show Parnas communicating with Giuliani and another attorney, Victoria Toensing, about the removal of Yovanovitch. Her removal, pushed by Trump, was at the center of the Democrats' inquiry. Yovanovitch testified in the House impeachment hearings that she was the victim of a "smear campaign." Trump on a July 25 call had promised Zelenskyy that Yovanovitch was "going to go through some things." Roughly two months earlier, she had been recalled from her diplomatic post. On April 23, the day before Yovanovitch was directed to return to the United States, Giuliani texted Parnas, "He fired her again." Parnas texted back, "I pray it happens this time I'll call you tomorrow my brother." Parnas also received messages from Hyde, who referred to Yovanovitch as a "bitch." Hyde is now running for a U.S. House seat in Connecticut.

After texting about the ambassador, Hyde gave Parnas location updates over the course of a week. In one text, Hyde wrote: "She's talked to three people. Her phone is off. Her computer is off." He said she was under heavy security and "we have a person inside." □

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Tennessee governor says he will sign anti-LGBT adoption bill

By **KIMBERLEE KRUESI and JONATHAN MATTISE**
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee announced Tuesday that he'll sign into law a measure that would assure continued taxpayer funding of faith-based foster care and adoption agencies even if they exclude LGBT families and others based on religious beliefs.

The GOP-controlled Senate gave the bill final passage on the first day of the 2020 legislative session after it was initially approved by the House last April. The bill was sent to the Republican governor amid warnings by critics of possible negative consequences for Tennessee's reputation.

Lee's communication director, Chris Walker, confirmed in a statement Tuesday evening that the governor would sign the bill. Earlier, before the Senate vote, Lee declined to weigh in after saying he had not read the two-page bill.

"We are off to a fine start this session," state Sen. Steve Dickerson joked while debating against the bill earlier as the lone Republican opposed.

A handful of states to date have enacted similar legislation including Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Alabama, South Dakota, North Dakota, Virginia, Mississippi and Michigan. But Michigan agreed in settling a lawsuit to no longer turn away LGBT couples or individuals because of religious objections.

Nationally, supporters argue such measures are

needed to protect against potential lawsuits hostile to the group's religious beliefs. However, critics counter that the proposals attack LGBT rights and limit the number of qualified families seeking to adopt or foster needy children.

"This bill is solely about freedom," said Sen. Paul Rose, the Republican sponsor of the bill.

Rose conceded he thought the bill wasn't necessary, pointing out that President Donald Trump's administration is currently proposing a rule that would impose the same protections. Yet he said he advanced the bill this year because there was no guarantee Trump would be reelected later this year.

Trump's proposal would rescind an Obama-era rule that prevented foster care agencies from receiving federal funds if they discriminated against families based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Ultimately, 20 Republicans approved the bill while five other Republican members simply voted "present" even after some questioned the bill's benefits.

Dickerson was the only Republican to join the Senate's five Democrats in opposition. He said the bill would allow certain groups to limit the families where children could be sent, adding "I expect that waiting list to increase somewhat."

He added, "This will have a direct fiscal impact on the state, not to mention the humanitarian impact and emotional impact on those



Rep. Glen Casada, R-Franklin, attends a House session on the first day of the 2020 legislative session Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020, in Nashville, Tenn. Casada, the former House Speaker, resigned the position in August 2019.

children who ... will now be in a foster setting for a longer time."

In 2011, Illinois declined to renew its state contract with Catholic Charities adoption services due to its policy of refusing child placement to same-sex couples. Catholic Charities has also stopped handling adoptions in Washington D.C., Massachusetts and San Francisco over concerns they would be required to act against their religious beliefs.

If the proposal becomes law as the governor has signaled, current adoption practices in Tennessee aren't expected to change. Some faith-based agencies already do not allow gay couples to adopt. But this measure would provide legal protections to agencies that do.

For example, denied applicants couldn't sue an agency for damages if the religious belief or moral conviction was cited as a reason.

The legislation sparked opposition from civil rights and foster advocates.

"The foster care system is at a critical juncture where it is required by new federal law to reduce the number of children placed in harmful group homes and to expand family home options for children who cannot safely return to their family of origin," said Currey Cook, counsel and director of Lambda Legal. "Children who need more homes, not fewer, should not suffer as part of efforts to chip away at equality for LGBTQ families."

Over in the House, lawmakers had less on tap on

opening day though an unrelated political development unfolded.

Republican Rep. David Byrd confirmed he doesn't plan to seek reelection this year. Byrd had been accused of sexual misconduct by three women when he was their high school basketball coach and a teacher decades ago, before being elected. He was reelected in 2018 despite the accusations.

Byrd said he told GOP colleagues in an August closed door gathering that he wouldn't run again, as The Tennessean had reported.

"I told my caucus I wouldn't go run, and I hate to go back on my word, even though I'm getting a lot of pressure put on me in my district to run," Byrd told The Associated Press. □

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This Dec. 12, 2018, file photo shows traffic on the Hollywood Freeway in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Trump administration signals compromise on gas mileage rules

By **TOM KRISHER**
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The Trump administration is signaling that it could increase fuel economy standards, possibly compromising on its push to freeze them at 2020 levels.

In one of the administration's hardest-fought battles to roll back Obama-era environmental regulations, two federal agencies submitted a final rule on gas mileage and greenhouse gas emissions on Tuesday.

But they would not give details until the rule is reviewed and formally published by the Office of Management and Budget.

Still, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says in a statement that it believes the rule, written jointly with the Environmental Protection Agency, will improve gas mileage and reduce emissions from the U.S. fleet of new vehicles.

The statement also said the rule would make new vehicles more affordable for Americans, thereby putting more new vehicles on the road that are safer than the ones they replaced.

"When finalized, this rule will

be a win for all Americans," the statement said.

Last year, the administration's proposed freeze touched off a huge legal fight with California, which has authority under the Clean Air Act to set its own greenhouse gas emissions, and by extension, gas mileage standards.

Trump revoked California's authority, and the state challenged the decision in court.

Later, the auto industry split on the matter with four companies, Ford, BMW, Volkswagen and Honda, siding with California. Most other automakers went with Trump.

When the Trump administration released its proposed "Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient Vehicles Rule" in August of 2018, it was panned by environmental groups who said the calculations were flawed.

Even the EPA's Science Advisory Board, mainly appointed by Trump, questioned the rationale in a draft report late last year.

"There are significant weaknesses in the scientific analysis of the proposed rule," the board wrote. □

Trump admin weighs shifting billions more for border wall



In this Sept. 18, 2019, file photo, President Donald Trump tours a section of the southern border wall in Otay Mesa, Calif.

Associated Press

By **COLLEEN LONG** and **ANDREW TAYLOR**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is weighing whether to shift billions more in military funding to build the border wall after already moving more than \$6 billion, prompting a fresh round of criticism from lawmakers.

But senior administration officials cautioned that no final decisions have been made, and no official figures have been decided.

The officials were not authorized to publicly discuss internal deliberations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The border wall is one of Trump's signature issues — he's been talking about building a "big beautiful wall" between the U.S. and Mexico since his early campaign days.

Then, he was claiming he'd make Mexico pay for it. But American taxpayers are paying instead — and wall funding has been a major source of conflict between Democratic lawmakers and Trump as they negotiate agency funding bills each year.

Last year Trump was forced to settle for just \$1.4 billion in wall funding

following the longest government shutdown in history.

But he issued a controversial declaration of a national emergency shortly afterward that allowed him to shift almost three times as much money from military construction accounts to wall building.

The Supreme Court ruled this summer the funds could be used. In total, about \$12 billion has been allocated for the wall. And billions more have been requested.

Homeland Security officials, who manage border security, referred questions on the funding to the White House, which did not comment.

Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf disputed the critics who say the new construction is only replacing old fencing.

The new, 30-foot (9-meter) walls do replace other barriers, but those were shorter and easier to cross.

Wolf said he's confident the administration will build or start to build 400 to 450 miles (644 to 724 kilometers) by the end of the year.

At a Pentagon news conference Tuesday, Defense Secretary Mark Esper was asked about the reports

that the administration is considering diverting billions more in Defense Department funding to support wall construction this year.

He declined to respond directly beyond saying the Pentagon considers the Southwest U.S. border to be part of its mission to protect the homeland, and that the Pentagon supports the DHS in that respect.

Asked whether that meant supporting DHS financially, he said, "If that's what it takes, we prepared to support."

House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita M. Lowey and other lawmakers said the administration was planning to "steal" \$7.2 billion in counternarcotics and military construction funding to pay for the wall.

"Having failed to get his way in Congress, it appears President Trump is now once again forcing servicemembers and their families to pay for his wall by cancelling even more vital military construction projects," Lowey, of New York, and other Democratic lawmakers said in a statement.

"He is choosing politics over their readiness and quality of life." □

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Jet dumps fuel that lands on schoolkids near Los Angeles

By STEFANIE DAZIO

Associated Press

CUDAHY, Calif. (AP) — A mist of fuel dumped by an airliner with an engine problem as it made an emergency return to Los Angeles International Airport fell on several schools Tuesday, causing minor skin and lung irritation to 56 children and adults, officials said.

The fuel sprayed out of the plane in two lines and the strong-smelling vapor descended at midday in the city of Cudahy and nearby parts of Los Angeles County, about 13 miles (21 kilometers) east of the airport. The vapor fell on five elementary schools, but all injuries were minor and no one was taken to hospitals, Los Angeles County Fire Department Inspector Sky Cornell said. It didn't force any evacuations.

"That's a great sign," Cornell said. People were treated with soap and water, Fire Inspector Henry Narvaez said.

Shortly after takeoff, Delta Air Lines Flight 89 to Shanghai "experienced an engine issue requiring the aircraft to return quickly to LAX.

The aircraft landed safely after release of fuel, which was required as part of normal procedure to reach a safe landing weight," the company said in a statement. The airline did not

release details about the engine problem. The Federal Aviation Administration said it is investigating.

"There are special fuel-dumping procedures for aircraft operating into and out of any major U.S. airport," the FAA said in a statement.

"These procedures call for fuel to be dumped over designated unpopulated areas, typically at higher altitudes so the fuel atomizes and disperses before it reaches the ground."

The FlightAware website's flight track showed the jet took off over the ocean and made an immediate right turn toward land and circled back over Southern California to approach the airport from the east.

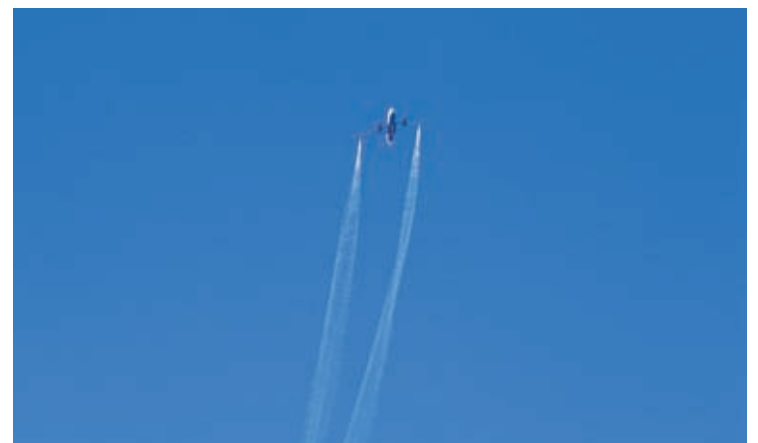
Delta said it was in touch with the airport and Fire Department and shared "concerns regarding reported minor injuries to adults and children."

The Los Angeles Unified School District said its Park Avenue Elementary campus in Cudahy and 93rd Street Elementary had "direct impacts from the fuel." Cornell said 31 children and adults were affected at Park Avenue, and 12 at 93rd Street. The rest of those affected were at other schools.

The school district said in a statement that paramedics were immediately called to treat anyone

complaining of "skin irritation or breathing problems" and that its environmental health and safety office also responded.

Park Avenue sixth-grader Diego Martinez said he and his classmates were outside for physical education class when they saw the airplane flying low overhead. □



In this photo from video, Delta Air Lines Flight 89 to Shanghai, China, dumps fuel over Los Angeles before returning to Los Angeles International Airport for an emergency landing Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020.

Associated Press

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U.S. sending Mexican migrants 1,000 miles from border

By **ASTRID GALVAN and ELIOT SPAGAT**
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The Trump administration said Tuesday it will start deporting about 250 Mexicans a week on flights from Tucson, Arizona, to Guadalajara, over 1,000 miles (1,640 kilometers) from the border.

The move reflects how Mexicans have become a higher priority in border enforcement as fewer Central Americans head to the U.S.

The flights aim to deter attempts at crossing the border illegally by sending people deeper into Mexico.

Immigration authorities began the repatriation flights to Mexico's interior in December.

The Department of Homeland Security said there will be two flights a week, starting Jan. 24.

Heather Swift, a department spokeswoman, said the flights satisfy a long-standing request of the Mexican government and will take people who are deported closer to their hometowns.

Mexicans from states that border the U.S. will not be put on the flights.

Mexicans are exempt from a U.S. policy introduced a year ago to make asylum-seekers wait in Mexico for hearings in U.S. immigration court.

More than 56,000 asylum-seekers had been turned back by the end of No-

vember, according to Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, about two-thirds of them Guatemalan or Honduran.

The policy, called "Migrant Protection Protocols," has expanded across the border as the number of Central Americans arriving at the border has plunged.

Mexicans accounted for half of the arrests and people stopped at the U.S. border in December, more than three times more than any other nationality and a shift from much of last year, when Guatemala and Honduras were the top countries of origin.

"This is another example of the Trump administration working with the government of Mexico to address the ongoing border security crisis," Swift said.

A similar program in place from 2004 to 2012 also flew Mexicans who had crossed the border through Arizona deep into Mexican cities at the cost of \$100 million over its lifespan.

The repatriation program was meant as a deterrent for border-crossers who might attempt the trek again.

Mexican officials initially had doubts, but they embraced the program as a way to save lives at a time when thousands of migrants were dying in the desert. Over 125,000 people were flown at no cost to them. The program ended when the number of migrants began to drop. □

Officials: Dam at Mississippi lake could soon fail



County officials work on the Oktibbeha County Lake Dam, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020, near Starkville, Miss., after County Engineer Clyde Pritchard warned the dam's failure was imminent.

Associated Press

STARKVILLE, Miss. (AP) —

Heavy rains could cause the failure of a dam in a rural northeastern Mississippi county as officials on Tuesday urged residents to evacuate as a precaution.

Oktibbeha County Emergency Management Agency Director Kristen Campanella said the county engineer had inspected the Oktibbeha County Lake dam, reported extremely high water levels in the lake and noted the dam could fail at any time.

Mississippi has one of the highest numbers of dams that pose dangers and are in poor or unsatisfactory condition, according to a two-year investigation by The Associated Press.

The Oktibbeha County Lake dam was rated "fair" the last time it was inspected in 2016. A February 2019 report made available to the AP on Tuesday noted ongoing

seepage problems that the owners — the Oktibbeha County Board of Supervisors — said they lacked money to fix.

The report did not detail how much the repairs would cost or how long the problem with seepage has existed.

The board has issued a warning about the current danger of a breach and activated an emergency action plan, news outlets reported. The plan, reviewed Tuesday by the AP, says a breach would lead to the closure of nine highways.

While the evacuation is not mandatory, Campanella urged residents near the dam to relocate immediately to a safer distance. The number of people affected wasn't immediately clear.

Campanella told the AP there were about 130 property addresses in the area. "A lot are family properties, though, so there are multiple trailers on the land,"

she said. The emergency plan states that 108 structures would need to be evacuated in the event of a breach.

Campanella said a community safe room has been set up "as a staging area" until a Red Cross shelter opens at a local church. The dam is about 8 miles (13 kilometers) northwest of Starkville.

Mississippi has 5,886 dams counted in federal records. Of those, 375 are high-hazard dams, meaning they could kill someone if they fail. Of those, 35% are in poor or unsatisfactory condition — the fourth highest share in the country among the 44 states and Puerto Rico that had high hazard dams in bad shape.

Since the beginning of 2014, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality has counted 42 dams that have failed. At least nine others have been drained, sometimes in face of imminent hazard. According to the National Weather Service, the area of the Oktibbeha Lake on Tuesday had received 2.5 to 3.5 inches (6.3 to 8.9 centimeters) of rain over 24 hours. Based on radar estimates, it received 2 inches (5.1 centimeters) over six hours, said meteorologist John Moore.

Moore said the area has recently gone through flash flood warnings. "They started the year really, really wet and haven't gotten a break," Moore said. □

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6 guards, 15 others charged in Rikers Island bribery case

NEW YORK (AP)—Federal prosecutors announced charges Tuesday against six New York City correctional officers accused of taking thousands of dollars in bribes to smuggle drugs to inmates at the Rikers Island jail complex. Fifteen other people, including several inmates, also were charged in criminal complaints unsealed in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn.

The scheme had been under investigation since early 2019, prosecutors said, and involved guards sneaking a smartphone, marijuana and other drugs into the troubled jail complex.

Investigators said they found a dozen clear plastic bags of marijuana after searching one inmate involved in the conspiracy. They said he also had an iPhone and charger in his laundry bag.

Authorities said they reviewed financial records, conducted surveillance and listened to recorded calls in which the defendants used coded language to talk about the smuggling.

In at least one instance, prosecutors said, "Oakland Raider jerseys" was code for marijuana.

"Contraband smuggling enterprises have long

plagued city jail facilities," Margaret Garnett, the commissioner of the city's Department of Investigation, said in a news release. "The arrests today are another example of a pattern in which inmates and outside conspirators identify correction officers vulnerable to corruption and use them to carry drugs and other illegal substances into the jails."

The Department of Corrections officers charged in the case are: Darlington James, 30, Patrick Legerme, 29, Aldrin Livingston, 31, Michael Murray, 28, Angel Rodriguez, 23, and Christopher Walker, 28.

It was not immediately clear whether they had defense attorneys to comment on their behalf. A dozen of the defendants were expected to appear before a federal magistrate Tuesday.

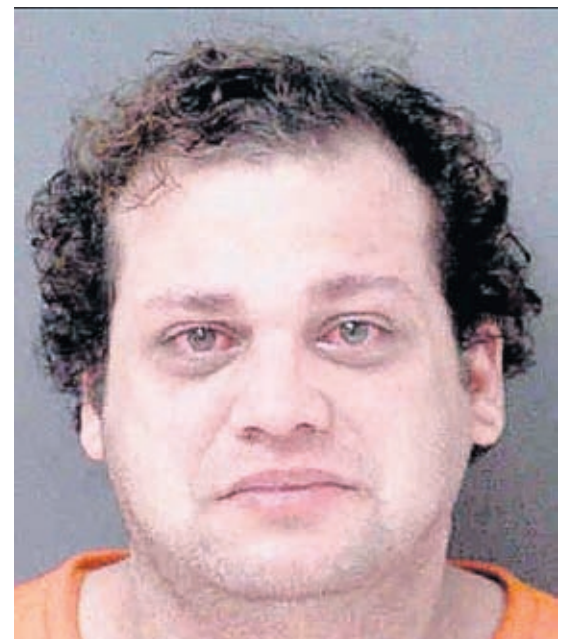
Prosecutors said three others remained at large. New York City lawmakers voted in October to close Rikers Island, one of the world's largest jails, and replace the complex with four smaller jails intended to be more modern and humane and closer to the city's main courthouses in Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx and Queens. □

Targeting rich neighborhoods, man stole 1,300 people's mail

By JONATHAN DREW
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A North Carolina man was sentenced to more than three years in prison for roaming neighborhoods after dark, stealing mail from mailboxes and then cashing thousands of dollars in pilfered checks, prosecutors said Tuesday. Since at least 2016, Erik Magana's scheme targeted affluent neighborhoods in several North Carolina towns including Charlotte, Davidson and Gastonia as well as Fort Mill, South Carolina, according to court documents. Authorities say he would drive up to mailboxes, reach his hand through the window of the car and take mail that residents had failed to bring inside after daytime delivery. Authorities documented mail stolen from at least 1,300 victims.

The 34-year-old Charlotte resident, who pleaded guilty in April to mail theft and aggravated identity theft, was sentenced to 42 months in prison in federal court. He also was ordered to pay \$77,000 in restitution, which represents documented losses to banks he defrauded, though the actual cost of his fraud is likely much higher, prosecutors said. "Contained within the defendant's apartment were undelivered Hamilton tickets, Christmas ornaments, merchandise, passports, state and federal income tax refund checks, credit and debit cards, and business and vendor payments, amongst others," prosecutors wrote in court documents. "The time and energy many of these victims expended to obtain replacement tax refund checks from the IRS or North Carolina, cancelling and replacing credit cards, and reissuing checks to vendors for payments cannot be underestimated." U.S. Postal Inspector Anton Jones wrote in a court document that his investigation of Magana began in late 2018 after authorities received numerous reports from the Charlotte area of people having mail stolen from residential mailboxes during early morning hours. The



This undated booking photo provided by the Mecklenburg County, N.C., Sheriff's Office shows Erik Magana, of Charlotte, N.C., who authorities said stole mail from at least 1,300 victims' mailboxes and then fraudulently deposited checks.

Associated Press

victims also reported that checks or credit cards were used without their consent. The inspector wrote that he obtained a warrant and began tracking the blue 2017 Mercedes sedan driven by Magana during early morning runs through affluent neighborhoods. Prosecutors wrote that over an approximately one-week period "he was tracked during the overnight hours driving through Charlotte-area neighborhoods almost every day that mail was delivered. Postal Inspectors also personally observed the defendant stealing mail by reaching his arm through the open window of his vehicle." Magana would then take stolen checks, sometimes forging the recipient's signature, and deposit them into bank accounts, then quickly withdraw cash before the banks had time to notice the funds were stolen, according to court documents. □

EU pressures Iran on atom deal in last-ditch bid to save it

Continued from Front

The three nations specifically avoided threatening the sanctions while emphasizing hopes for a negotiated resolution. They held off their announcement until tensions between the U.S. and Iran had calmed down after the Jan. 3 killing of an Iranian general in an American drone strike so their intent would not be misinterpreted.

"Our goal is clear: We want to preserve the accord and come to a diplomatic solution within the agreement," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said in a statement. "We will tackle this together with all partners in the agreement. We call on Iran to participate constructively in the negotiation process that is now beginning."

Iran's Foreign Ministry warned of a "serious and strong response" to the European move. But at the same time, ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi held out an olive branch, saying his country was "fully ready to answer any good

will and constructive effort" that preserves the nuclear deal, Iran's official IRNA news agency reported.

The accord, which Iran signed with the U.S., Britain, Germany, France, China and Russia in 2015, has been unraveling since Trump pulled Washington out in 2018 and reinstated sanctions designed to cripple the Islamic Republic under what the U.S. called a "maximum pressure" campaign.

The Europeans felt compelled to act, despite objections from Russia and China, because every violation of the deal reduces the so-called "breakout time" Iran needs to produce a nuclear bomb, Britain's Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab told Parliament.

"Each of these actions were individually serious," Raab said. "Together, they now raise acute concerns about Iran's nuclear ambitions." Iran insists it is not seeking an atomic weapon.

At the time of the signing of the deal, known as



In this Dec. 23, 2019 file photo released by the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, technicians work at the Arak heavy water reactor's secondary circuit, as officials and media visit the site, near Arak, Iran.

Associated Press

the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA, Iran's "breakout" time was estimated to be as little as two months. With the safeguards in place, limiting Iran's stockpiles of enriched uranium and heavy water, the number and types of centrifuges it can use to en-

rich uranium, and the purity that is allowed, that estimate grew to more than a year.

Trump said the deal should be renegotiated because it didn't address Iran's ballistic missile program or its involvement in regional conflicts, and reimposed U.S. sanctions that have left Iran's economy reeling. To pressure the remaining signatories to provide enough economic incentives to offset the U.S. sanctions, Iran last year began violating its limitations in stages. Throughout, it has announced the violations publicly and continued to allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency in to its facilities. Following the U.S. drone strike that killed Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani, Iran announced what it said was its fifth and final step in violating the deal, saying it would no longer abide by any limitation to its enrichment activities.

That left the Europeans "with no choice" but to invoke the dispute mechanism, Raab told Parliament. "We do so with a view to bringing Iran back into full compliance," he said, adding that they hope the move will "reinforce the diplomatic track, not to abandon it."

In their letter to the EU's foreign policy chief announcing their move, the three countries distanced themselves from the new U.S. sanctions.

"Our three countries are not joining a campaign to implement maximum pressure against Iran," they said. "Our hope is to bring Iran back into full compliance with its commitments."

At the same time, they rejected Tehran's argument that it was justified in violating the deal because Washington broke the agreement first when it pulled out.

Invoking the dispute mechanism starts a 30-day period in which to resolve the problem, which can be extended and probably will be. If the problem persists, the matter could be brought before the U.N. Security Council and might result in the "snapback" of sanctions that had been lifted under the deal.

Despite Iran's recent violations, all remaining parties to the JCPOA have said it is worth preserving, saying it is the best way to curb Iran's nuclear program. Diplomats note that even with its violations, Iran is still enriching uranium to a lower purity than it did before the deal, and IAEA inspectors continue to have access to its facilities. □

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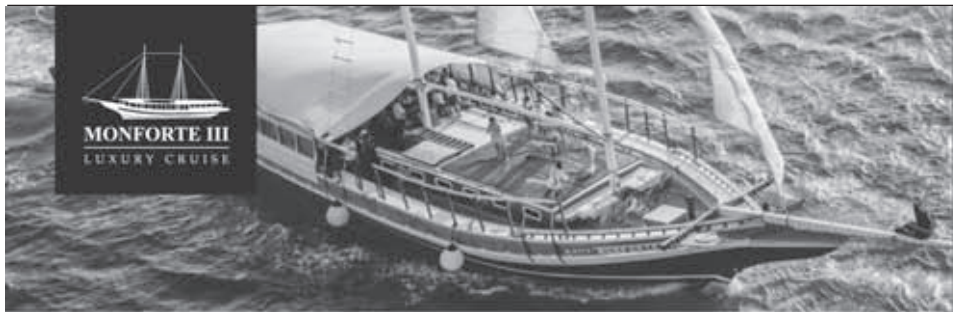


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Smoke rise following a big explosion at an industrial hub near the port city of Tarragona, Spain, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020.

Associated Press

Spain: Chemical plant explosion kills 1, injures at least 9

ARITZ PARRA and CIARAN GILES

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — A massive explosion at a petrochemical plant in northeastern Spain on Tuesday killed one person and injured at least nine others, three seriously, regional authorities said.

A press spokesman for the port city of Tarragona, where the plant is located, said a preliminary investigation indicated the force of the blast killed an individual in a nearby neighborhood.

The spokesman said he had no further details. He spoke on condition of anonymity in keeping with City Hall regulations.

The regional fire service tweeted that the man had died in a building affected by the blast. They said one other person was injured in the building.

The interior minister of Spain's Catalonia region said eight workers at the factory were injured, three seriously, and one person remained missing.

Emergency services said that two of the injured were being treated for major burns.

The civil protection agency in the Catalonia region

called the blast a "chemical accident" and initially warned people in parts of the city of just over 130,000 and in nearby towns to refrain from going outside as preventive measures.

The confinement measures were lifted and two roads that had been cordoned off were reopened some three hours after the evening blast.

Interior department chief Miquel Buch tweeted that the fire was not toxic but he advised residents to remain inside. The blast took place on the premises of Iqoxe, according to a woman who answered the phone at the company and who quickly hung up the phone without giving her name.

According to the company's website, Iqoxe is Spain's sole producer of ethylene oxide, a chemical compound used for making detergents, solvents and other products, as well as glycol, one of the main raw materials in the production of plastics.

Local residents posted videos showing the aftermath of the blast, with flames and a big column of black smoke emerging from an area dotted with big industrial tanks. □



In this file picture taken on Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019, Marian Kocner the suspected mastermind in the slaying of an investigative journalist Jan Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kusnirova, who were shot dead in their home on Feb. 21, 2018, is escorted by armed police officers from a courtroom after a trial session in Pezinok, Slovakia.

Associated Press

Middleman in killing of Slovak journalist points finger

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP) — A man who has admitted to arranging the murder of an investigative journalist and his fiancée in Slovakia told a court Tuesday that he did so at the behest of local businessman Marian Kocner.

Zoltan Andrusko told a court in the town of Pezinok, north of the capital Bratislava, that he was the middleman "at the request of Mr. Kocner." Kocner, who denies any involvement in the slaying, had allegedly threatened Jan Kuciak following publication of a story about him.

"I am terribly sorry about what happened," Andrusko said. "It's impossible to fix it but I will try to do all I can to set things right," Andrusko confirmed the prosecution's claim a total of 70,000 euros (\$77,800) was paid, 50,000 of which in cash and the remaining 20,000 to forgive a debt.

Andrusko was among the original five suspects charged in relation to the alleged contract killing of Jan Kuciak and Martina Kusnirova in Feb. 2018 that subsequently

brought down the country's government. But he made an agreement to cooperate with prosecutors in exchange for a lower sentence.

He has already received a 15-year prison term on Dec 30.

The four defendants still standing trial face potential prison sentences of 25 years to life. The man suspected of shooting the couple pleaded guilty on Monday. The other three defendants, including Kocner, have all pleaded not guilty to murder charges.

Kuciak was shot in the chest and Kusnirova was shot in the head at their home in the town of Velka Maca, east of Bratislava, on Feb. 21, 2018. Both were aged 27.

The killings triggered major street protests and a political crisis that led to the previous government's collapse. Kuciak had been also investigating possible government corruption.

It is not clear when a verdict might be issued. □

Deputy prime minister calls Japan a nation with single race

By **MARI YAMAGUCHI**

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's deputy prime minister described the country as the only one in the world with a single race, language and 2,000-year-old monarchy, sparking criticism that he was ignoring an indigenous ethnic group and Japanese racial diversity.

Taro Aso, who is also finance minister and one of most influential lawmakers in Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government, has made a series of remarks in the past deemed insensitive and discriminatory.

"No other country but this one has lasted for as long as 2,000 years with one language, one ethnic group and one dynasty," Aso said in a speech Monday.



In this Jan. 6, 2020, file photo, Japan's Finance Minister Taro Aso poses during a ceremony marking the start of this year's trading in Tokyo.

Associated Press

Aso, 79, apologized on Tuesday, saying he meant to say Japan has survived a long time without experiencing any major migrations or occupation by other ethnic groups.

Indigenous Ainu people have lived in what is now northern Japan for thousands of years and were officially recognized by a

law enacted last year to protect and promote their culture.

Japan also has 2.7 million foreign residents, more than 2% of its total population of 126 million, according to government statistics. That includes more than 400,000 ethnic Koreans, many of whom came voluntarily or forcibly to Japan during its 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula, and about 360,000 Koreans who have been naturalized.

International couples comprised more than 3% of the marriages in 2017. Last year, Japan relaxed visa requirements to allow more foreign workers to make up for a declining workforce in a nation with an aging and falling population.

In his speech Monday, Aso also praised Japan's success in last year's Rugby World Cup and noted its ethnically diverse team. Japan became "one team" while maintaining its own culture and language, Aso said, stressing the importance of having a clear sense of Japanese identity as the country competes internationally in sports and in other ways.

Last year, Aso blamed the elderly and childless for Japan's aging and declining population. In 2018, he defended a top bureaucrat in his finance ministry against sexual harassment allegations. He was also criticized for comments interpreted as defending Adolf Hitler's motives for the killing of Jews by Nazi Germany. □



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Harsh weather kills 70 more people in Pakistan, Afghanistan



People sit around a fire to warm themselves after a heavy snowfall in Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020.

Associated Press

By **ROSHAN MUGHAI and RAHIM FAIEZ**

Associated Press

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Severe winter weather has claimed more lives as avalanches triggered by heavy snowfall killed 55 people in Pakistan-administered Kashmir while 15 died in neighboring Afghanistan, officials said Tuesday. The latest deaths raise the two countries' overall death toll from the severe weather to 126 since Sunday.

The disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir was the worst-affected area, with 55 deaths in the past 24 hours, said Waseem Uddin, a spokesman for Pakistan's

National Disaster Management Authority.

Among those fatalities, 41 died in a single avalanche in the Neelum Valley while 14 people died in elsewhere in the region, he told The Associated Press. Avalanches are common in Kashmir, which is divided between Pakistan and India and claimed by both in its entirety.

Earlier on Tuesday, Ahmad Raza Qadri, the minister for the disaster management authority in Kashmir, said they had declared a state of emergency in the affected areas. "Rescuers are facing difficulties in reaching the stricken villages," he said. □

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South Africa to strip refugees' status for any political act

By CARA ANNA
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

South Africa can now strip refugees of their asylum status if they engage in any political activity related to their home countries, according to a new law that critics call illegal and deeply ironic after the ruling party fought the former apartheid government for years as a liberation movement in exile.

Representatives of refugees and asylum seekers say they will go to court to challenge the new law which they say limits freedoms of speech and expression guaranteed under South Africa's constitution, a globally praised document created after the racist system of apartheid ended and the African National Congress came to power.

The new law quietly took effect Jan. 1, startling a community of refugees from around the continent who have long relied on the freedom in South Africa to speak out against what they call repressive governments back home in places such as Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Burundi and Congo. Asked whether the ban on political activities — including voting — contradicted the ruling ANC's own history in exile in African nations, Home Affairs Minister Aaron Motsoaledi asserted to local outlet News24 last week that the circumstances are hardly the same.

"The ANC people who lived in countries did not go there to say, 'I am a refugee, just protect me.' They



In this Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2019 file photo police clash with protesters outside the U.N. refugee agency's offices in Cape Town, South Africa.

Associated Press

went there and said, 'I am a freedom fighter,'" said Motsoaledi, whose bio says he was involved with the ANC's armed wing during apartheid.

The minister also described the leaders of some African nations that people have fled as being "democratically elected," which human rights groups would reject. Rwanda's President Paul Kagame won the last election with nearly 100% of the vote, Zimbabwe's army opened fire on people protesting after its most recent election and the U.N. human rights office has called Burundi "one of the most prolific slaughterhouses of humans in recent times" over its election turmoil.

As questions over the new law continue, however, the Home Affairs minister on

Tuesday told the South African Broadcasting Corporation "it might be that the wording might have been wrong" and if so, "we will correct it."

But Motsoaledi defended the new requirement that any political activity by refugees first obtain his permission, comparing it to getting authorities' permission for a public protest.

"We need to know if it's wrong and it's going to cause war in the (home) country," he told the state broadcaster. "We need to warn them and say, 'No, no, no, this will cause war with our neighbors, it's not good for us.'"

That sentiment worries some refugees.

During an interview with The Associated Press, one Rwandan activist and refu-

gee, Gabriel Hertis, paged through the South African constitution's Bill of Rights, which the constitutional court says "has had the greatest impact on life in this country."

"This new law is against all I'm looking at," he said, listing guarantees of equality, dignity, freedom of association and more. "This is an attempt to change the constitution through back-door channels."

For years, some African governments have complained to South Africa about the activities of people who fled here and found a relatively safe place to be outspoken, and until now South Africa had withstood the pressure, Hertis asserted.

He worried that informers with Rwanda's govern-

ment, which has been accused of hunting down opposition figures outside its borders, will now approach South African officials and say, "Those people are doing politics."

South Africa "is inviting the interference of governments," Hertis said.

The new law will have a "drastic effect" both on newcomers and those already in South Africa, said the spokesman of the African Diaspora Forum, which represents refugees and others from around the continent.

"We might even see extraditions," Amir Sheikh told the AP, comparing the actions to U.S. President Donald Trump's restrictive executive orders regarding refugees.

Many asylum-seekers see South Africa as the most obvious choice of refuge on the African continent, said Alicia Raymond, an attorney and lecturer with the Wits Law Clinic at the University of the Witwatersrand.

"They've heard of Nelson Mandela and they think they'll be protected," she said, referring to the Nobel Peace Prize winner and South Africa's first black president. She also recalled people marching a few years ago in protest against South Africa's periodic bouts of xenophobic violence.

"That act could exclude people from refugee status" now, she said. "It does not make sense." She doesn't think the new law would withstand a constitutional challenge. □

Experts warn Puerto Rico not prepared for big earthquakes

By DANICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— More than two years ago, Hurricane Maria revealed that Puerto Rico was utterly unprepared for a powerful hurricane despite its location in one of the world's most storm-vulnerable regions.

Now, a flurry of earthquakes topped by a magnitude 6.4 temblor that killed one person and damaged hundreds of buildings has many accusing the government of being caught unready again.

"It proved that Puerto Rico is not prepared for a seismic movement," said Nazario Lugo, president of the island's Association of Emergency Managers. "The government has to

be proactive, and we saw that was not the case until they were up to their neck in water."

Lugo, a former emergency management director for Puerto Rico, told The Associated Press that the government didn't activate its emergency command center until the day after the largest quake hit, breaking with protocol.

This drew comparisons to Hurricane Maria of 2017, which devastated the island and caused thousands of deaths. Critics said it caught the local and federal governments with limited supplies on an island with poorly maintained infrastructure and led to a delayed response stemming from a lack of communication and orga-



The Immaculate Concepcion Catholic church stands damaged after a magnitude 5.9 earthquake, following a previous earthquake earlier in the week that collapsed part of the structure in Guanica, Puerto Rico, Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020.

Associated Press

nization.

A flurry of hundreds of small quakes began hitting Puerto Rico on Dec. 28, and a magnitude 5.8 jolt that toppled a famed rock for-

mation landmark struck on Jan. 6, Three Kings' Day, a major holiday on the island. "The first day, when toys were being handed out, they should have started a process to activate the emergency plan," he said. That didn't happen until Tuesday's 6.4 earthquake hit before dawn. It knocked out power to the entire island, collapsed several homes and schools and cracked bridges. Many living along the southern coastline were left without water service and more than 4,900 people sought refuge in government shelters.

While many Puerto Ricans were surprised, scientists were not, including Christa von Hillebrandt, former director of the island's Seismic Network and manager of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Caribbean tsunami warning program.

"For decades, scientists and people like me have been informing and alerting communities and the government of Puerto Rico of the physical threat," she said. "In the past 30 years, seismic conscience definitely improved in Puerto Rico, but not much action was taken. ... You would see some improvements, but some critical areas did not receive sufficient attention."

Just days after the natural disaster, emergency management Director Carlos Acevedo acknowledged to reporters that the government had yet to com-

plete a plan that dictates protocol for when an earthquake hits the island.

Juan Alicea, president of Puerto Rico's Society of Professional Engineers, told the AP that he received a draft of the plan only on Jan. 5. "I see that as a failure," he said. "We all have to assume our responsibilities." Acevedo did not return messages for comment and has insisted that Puerto Rico is prepared in case another big quake strikes.

Von Hillebrandt partially agreed with that assessment, noting that local officials had identified all tsunami risk zones by 2003 and completed evacuation maps in 2015. By 2016, all coastal communities in Puerto Rico were certified as being ready for a tsunami.

In October 1918, a magnitude 7.3 quake struck near Puerto Rico's northwest coast, unleashing a tsunami and killing 116 people.

While concerns remain about Puerto Rico's preparedness, federal authorities have praised the local government's response.

Jeff Byard, with the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, said he is extremely pleased with the post-quake operation. "I cannot commend the commonwealth enough for the proactive nature that they've taken providing the initial resources, the initial support," he said.

More than 1,280 earthquakes have hit Puerto Rico's southern region since Dec. 28, more than two dozen of them magnitude 4.5 or greater, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. "If we don't take action, this is going to cost us a lot of money and a lot of lives," he said.

Also of concern is that some 500 public schools across Puerto Rico were built before 1987 and don't adhere to new construction codes, placing students at risk, according to Alicea. He said the government has invested money to bring many other schools up to date, but the remaining ones are not built to withstand earthquakes. □



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LOCAL



Urgent Care Aruba (UCA) introduces Preventive Health Check Up



ORANJESTAD — Urgent Care Aruba situated at the Noord Medical Center continues to innovate its services in benefit of their patients and is now introducing health promotion and disease prevention programs focused on keeping businesses, locals, and island visitors healthy.

Let us introduce you to our Executive Check Up, this allows patients, both males and female to have their current health situation in check. This annual checkup is available to local companies wanting to establish a preventive measure to their employee's health as well as locals and island visitors wanting to take care of their own wellbeing. This package includes; Laboratory Exams, Medical imaging: X-Ray/

Ultrasound-Echo, EKG, Gynecology (for our female patients), and Physician Evaluation (Consultation and Physical examination). Urgent Care Aruba (UCA) facilitates and expands the possibility of conducting your complete annual preventive medical checkup here on the island instead of going abroad. This will eliminate the cost of airfare tickets, stay, transportation, vacation days, etc. The Executive Check Up is available with appointment between Monday to Saturday from 8am till 10am.

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Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you

will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass". The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry! Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems. For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped.



Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach.

The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks. It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to nat-

ural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass. Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights. Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer)

and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes. Funny, how trash can change into treasures! Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □

Nine Keys How to Grow Your Wealth

By Bonnie Gortler

NEW YORK, US —

Wouldn't it be great if you were able to be kinder with yourself when thinking about wealth? There is no need to rehash those past experiences that may not have worked out and held you back from achieving your financial goals. Lessons learned ultimately make you better. It's when you do not learn from them, and you repeat them, that it becomes a problem.

Do you have a system in place to bounce back and turn things around to move you closer to your financial goals? If so, take the time now and pat yourself on the back. If you've yet to create a system for yourself, you can start today by developing a plan which includes consistent habits that you can follow.

Your plan doesn't have to be complicated or disruptive to your everyday life. For best results, keep it simple. With some thought and preparation, you can create a plan which includes a system for achieving more wealth and financial security. You don't need all the answers right now to get started. Whether you're under 20, in your 30s, or over 50, it's possible to make life and money changes for the better. What you want is an action plan that will grow your current income into sustainable wealth, turning your dreams into reality.

By developing consistent habits, and with adjustments, you can make a big difference for your future, so you feel good and are not stressed or worried about your finances.

How can you start to make this happen?

The first step is to decide now, not tomorrow, not next week, or next year that you're ready to make your financial security a priority. The next step is changing your mindset from seeing yourself only working for your money and shifting it to understand how important it is that your money works for you.

How?



This will come to pass by investing in the stock market. Isn't the stock market risky? Yes, there is a risk when investing in the stock market. Although stocks are riskier than keeping money in a savings account or by accumulating a Certificate of Deposit (CD's) with a fixed yield, they have historically had higher returns that beat inflation, thereby helping you grow your wealth. A solid financial plan that includes the stock market opens more doors of financial opportunity because you are creating an additional source of income that compounds over time. Once you start investing, your money will be working for you.

It's not necessary to dive into the stock market with all your assets. You can start small and go slow. I recommend you start slow because as you begin investing, your knowledge

expands. Create your financial plan with short and long-term goal-oriented action steps that are simple and will not cause you to stress over your decisions. Time and experience as your skills improve, help you feel more comfortable and confident in investing. Start now by using a few of the nine keys listed below to grow your wealth.

Nine Keys How to Grow Your Wealth

1. Create a plan to start saving and investing as early as you can. Small sums of money add up over time.

2. Diversify your investments into a broad mix of stocks and bonds. Don't put all of your money in stocks. Use Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) or mutual funds where they pool together a basket of stocks or bonds to diversify your portfolio and manage your risk.

3. Don't have more

money invested than what you are comfortable with investing. Reduce your invested position in small increments. If you are worried or find yourself not sleeping at night, then you are too invested.

4. Manage your risk by avoiding taking large losses on your investments. Remember, small losses are the best losses you can have.

5. As you grow older, it's a good idea to move your assets into less-risky investments. A quick rule of thumb is to have an allocation to bonds that is equal to your age.

6. Develop an exit strategy that will go into effect at a predetermined time, giving you the leeway and flexibility to reduce your risk.

7. Keep your investment costs low. High trading costs eat into your gains over time.

8. Take advantage to contribute to a retirement savings plan if offered by your employer. Start with 2-4% of your income and then increase the contribution to 10%.

9. If you are not working and need money to live on, do your best to limit yourself to withdrawing four percent or less a year. In this way, you will preserve your capital for later years and be less likely to run out of money.

Investing in the stock market is an excellent way to grow your wealth over time. As you begin taking responsibility for your money, you will be setting yourself up for success because your money is working for you. Start now. By starting small and going slow, those changes over time (not all at once), would lay a strong foundation toward growing your wealth.

If you liked this article, you will love Bonnie's Free eBook: Grow Your Wealth And Well-Being

About Bonnie Gortler:

Bonnie Gortler, the Wealth & Well-Being Coach, is a successful stock market expert who has been instrumental in managing multi-million-dollar client portfolios within a top-rated investment firm during her over 35-year corporate career. As the author of "Journey to Wealth", Bonnie has made it her mission to share the importance of risk management and how to enjoy true financial well-being by applying the technical and mental sides of investing. Bonnie has an M.B.A. in Business Administration and is a certified life coach. Visit BonnieGortler.com to learn more about investing, well-being, and personal development. □



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Bohemian Restaurant: Live Violinist Angela

PALM BEACH — Avant-garde from France, non-conformist in style and ethnic in cuisine. That is what the new kid in town is about. Bohemian Restaurant is different, unconventional and a rebel with a cause. The cause is to make you feel king in this hidden garden with outstanding dishes that connect you to the European liaisons of Aruba. Thursday nights has an ex-

tra magic: the live Violinist Angela performs! From traditional French and Italian famous melodies to more upbeat pop and rock and roll. A taste for everyone.

A garden full of strong trees and dressed up in New York-style industrial-look elements creates a cosmopolitan vibe while at the same time the tropical breeze and outside dining

connect to the Caribbean. Waiters with French barrettes and pant suspenders service you with a happy and loose style with on the background the sounds of underground chill music varied with French classics.

ONLY French owned Restaurant

The French are famous for their culinary art. Bohemian is the ONLY French owned restaurant on Aruba and offers you Grande gastronomy in a hip decor. French classics like Coq-au-Vin, Beef tartare, Escargot, Duck Foie Gras Terrine, Bouillabaisse Fish Soup, Tuna-Tartare, Quinoa-Salad, Rib-Eye Butter Maitre-D, Crème Brulee, Chocolate Lava Cake and Pineapple Carpaccio are on the menu. Mediterranean inspired dishes like Ras el Hanout Fish Kebbab, Honey and Rosemary Lamb Shank, Moroccan Lamb sausages, Mediterranean Sea Bass and Grilled Local



Catch are other finger licking options. Directly imported wines from wineries in Europe make up for a perfect pairing. You are welcome to enjoy the Happy Hours and Daily Early Birds from 5 to 7 PM. Bon appetite!

Free Parking available at the parking lot in front of Barcelo Resort. Make your reservations through their website: <https://bohemianaruba.com>. Call them at 00 297 280 8448. Facebook: Bohemian. □



Honor to Connor Steelband Extravaganza 2nd edition

SAN NICOLAS — Sweet Pan Music Productions would like to invite you to the 2nd edition of 'Honor to Connor Steelband Extravaganza. This will take place on Saturday January 18th, 2020 at Charlie's Bar in San Nicolas from 6-10PM.

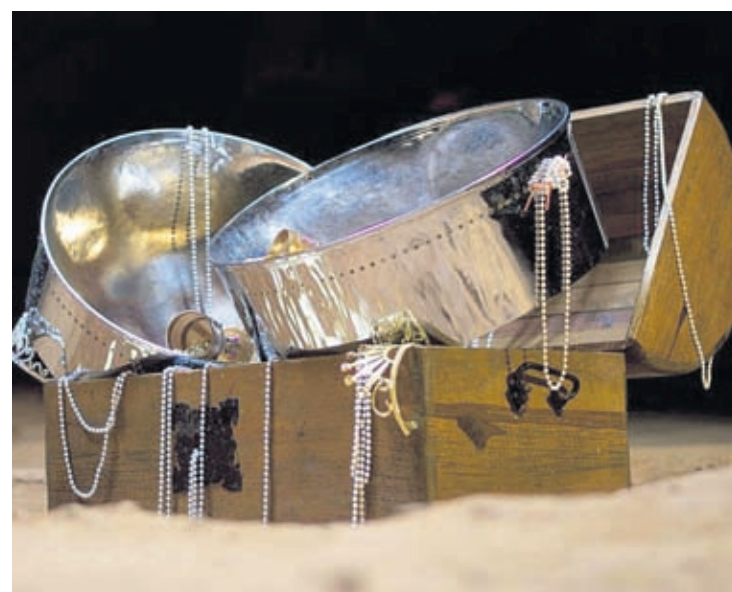
Honor to Connor Steelband Extravaganza will be honoring the 1st pioneer of Steel Pan music of Aruba the laid Mr. Edgar Connor and at the same time spicing it up with a celebration of Carnival 66. Connor was a big supporter of Aruba's

Carnival during its early years. Charles Brouns of Charlie's Bar and Stanley Dabian of the Department of Culture are great believers of this project and give their total support for the continuity of the steel pan music in Aruba.



Nico Connor, Lee Connor and Eugene Jones continue to encourage steel bands, steelpan artists and youngsters in order to increase more interest in the steel pan instrument and in this way continue their contribution to Aruba's heritage and Culture. Musical performances are by The Boys Pan Experience, young musicians Marver Guede and Karlson Peterson, students of

Aruba Panman Foundation, The Aruba Invaders, Cocorico in Motion Carnival Dancer and much more. The main street in front of Charlie's Bar will be closed off. Food and drinks are also available and the entrance will be free. Come and join in on this fun event where rhythm and culture go hand in hand. For more information checkout the Facebook page Sweet Pan Music. □





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Today's Happening



A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba



Wednesday 15 Dinner under the Stars

- Take a boat trip to Renaissance Island and let your taste buds travel to paradise.
- Enjoy a 4-course dinner menu consisting of Lamb Bock Choy or Salmon Ponzu, while your toes get pampered in white secluded sand. The private dinner setting includes a welcome cocktail at Lucy's Dock (across the Renaissance Mall), boat trip to Renaissance Private Island, dinner on the beach and live entertainment.
- From 6:30pm-10:00pm
- Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino, Oranjestad
- Facebook: Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino



Sunday 19 Balloon Parade

- It's the first Parade to kick-off carnival season. The streets of San Nicolas will be filled with happy children showing off their balloon creativities.
- 1pm-6pm
- Starts at Joe Laveist Ball park, San Nicolas
- Facebook: SMAC

Thursday 16

Aruba Ray's Comedy

- The "Aruba Ray's Comedy" show features some of the funniest American standup comedians in a terrific 90-minute show.
- 8:30pm
- Holiday Inn Ballroom, Palm Beach
- Facebook: Aruba Ray's Comedy



Friday 17

It's 5 o'clock somewhere

- Have you heard about the newest bar in town? The other-state-of-mind 5 o'clock Somewhere Bar & Grill opened recently. Get yourself some great energy because this will definitely make you happy.
- Open from noon
- Renaissance Marketplace, Oranjestad
- Facebook: 5 o'clock Somewhere Bar and Grill

Saturday 18

Honor to Connor Extravaganza 2nd Edition

- Join the Connor Brother's for a night of Steel Pan Music. Dance to the sweet tunes presented by local and international artists.
- From 6-10pm
- Charlie's Bar, San Nicolas
- Facebook: Sweet Pan Music



Monday 20 Joy of Aruba

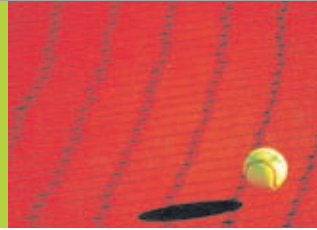
- Joy of Aruba performed at the Divi Divi Hotel by the Popcorn Dancers, one of Aruba's best Youth Dance Group. The performers will be presenting the most popular folkloric & modern music and dance of the island of Aruba. The Popcorn Dancers are determined to bring pleasure for your eyes, ears, heart & soul.
- 8:30pm-9:30pm
- Divi Tamarijn
- Facebook: Dream, Dare, Do - Aruba and Popcorn Club & Dancers Aruba



Tuesday 21 Taco Tuesday's

- Every Tuesday Lola is slinging crazy specials your way! Try this week's Carnita special
- 5pm-1am
- Next to Craft bar at Palm Beach
- Facebook: Lola Taqueria

SPORTS



Astros get the punishment, Dodgers pay the price

By **TIM DAHLBERG**
AP Sports Columnist

AJ Hinch won't be managing in the big leagues any time soon, if at all. Alex Cora will soon join him in the unemployment line, and it's hard to believe anyone will ever give him another job that involves being a leader of men.

The punishments — technically Cora's is still to come — fit the crime, and for that baseball commissioner Rob Manfred deserves a pat on the back. Give another one to Astros owner Jim Crane, who did his part to clean up an increasingly smelly mess in Houston by immediately firing both his manager and general manager.

But that doesn't bring real justice. It can't.

Not to the Los Angeles Dodgers, who are now at 32 years and counting without a World Series title. Not to Clayton Kershaw, whose postseason failings were magnified in game 5 at Minute Maid Park when the Dodgers ace was raked for six runs and didn't make it out of the fifth inning.

And certainly not to Yu Darvish, whose reputation — and nearly his career — got trashed when he was routed by the Astros in two games of the 2017 World Series.

Yes, the official record shows the Houston Astros are still your 2017 World Series champions and that's not going to change regardless of the outcry from Southern California.

OUT PACED



Warren, Brogdon help Pacers beat 76ers again, 101-95

Indiana Pacers' Malcolm Brogdon (7) is fouled by Philadelphia 76ers' Ben Simmons (25) as he goes up for a shot during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Jan. 13, 2020, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press
Page 20

Deep and relentless: LSU wears Clemson out in title tilt

By **BRETT MARTEL**

AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Clyde Edwards-Helaire took turns dancing around defenders or churning his legs as he pushed his compact frame through tacklers for extra yards and pivotal first downs.

Thaddeus Moss was a productive red-zone target, catching two short touchdown passes. And Terrace Marshall Jr. made his last of three catches count, rising up in tight coverage for a touchdown catch that put Clemson in a three-score hole.

Once the greatest offense in LSU history got rolling, it became apparent that Clemson's defense had far more to worry about than Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Joe Burrow and Biletnikoff-winning receiver Ja'Marr Chase.

The shifty, powerful Edwards-Helaire, Moss, Marshall and fellow receiver Justin Jefferson all contributed in ways that made it virtually impossible for Clemson's defense to hold up. In the end, they were worn out, giving up 19 more points than they'd allowed in a game all season.

No. 1 LSU also finished with 628 yards of offense in its 42-25 national championship triumph on Monday night — 112 more yards than any



LSU quarterback Joe Burrow holds the trophy after their win against Clemson in a NCAA College Football Playoff national championship game Monday, Jan. 13, 2020, in New Orleans. LSU won 42-25.

other Clemson opponent had gained.

"It's been like that the entire year," Edwards-Helaire said. "Once somebody is shut down or locked up or that's the key to their success on defense, to shut somebody down, it only opens the lanes for everybody else."

"A blade with five blades connected to it," Edwards-Helaire said. "That's how I describe this offense."

The 5-foot-8, 209-pound Edwards-Helaire, who'd been limited by a hamstring injury in the semifinal win

over Oklahoma, gained 164 yards from scrimmage with his combination of elusiveness and feet-churning power.

Fittingly, his 14-yard catch-and-run on fourth-and-3 allowed LSU to run out the clock without giving the ball back to Clemson in the final four minutes.

"He is the heart of our team. Man, he's tough, and he (plays like) 6-4, 270," LSU coach Ed Orgeron said. "I'm glad he was healthy. Those runs he made at the end of the game were very critical. He's hard to tackle."

He's got great balance. He's got a great trunk.

"He's going to go down as one of the greatest Tigers ever."

Moss, son of Hall-of-Fame receiver Randy Moss, said he felt like he was going to catch anything thrown his way.

"I was in the zone tonight," Moss said. "We're the best offense in college football history."

The numbers back him up. LSU (15-0) finished the season averaging 568.4 yards and 48.4 points per game this season, which, relative

to its level of competition in the Southeastern Conference and College Football Playoff, puts the Bayou Bengals' offense in rarefied air.

After his 227 yards and four TD's receiving against Oklahoma, Jefferson found himself double-covered early by Clemson.

But as the game wore on, he kept drives going with nine catches for 106 yards as LSU took command.

"We just know what we got to do and we came out with the victory. It feels great," Jefferson said. "They've been hyping up their corners, so we knew they were going to try to (use) press-man (coverage) the whole game and we're going out there trying to expose people."

Marshall was quiet most of the game, but his 24-yard touchdown early in the fourth quarter was the beginning of the end for Clemson.

"It took him a while to get going, but he made the championship play," Burrow said. "I couldn't be happier for that guy. He's worked harder than anybody on this team, and he's worked on his craft for a long time. Five-star coming in, had some bumps in the road, and for him to make that play, I'm so happy for him." □

Champs! LSU finishes No. 1 in AP Top 25 for third time

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**

AP College Football Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — LSU finished No. 1 in the AP Top 25 for the third time in school history, with Clemson No. 2 and Ohio State No. 3.

The Tigers (15-0) beat Clemson 42-25 in the national championship game Monday night and then received all 62 first-place votes from the media panel in the season's final Top 25 presented by Regions Bank.

LSU was No. 1 for the final eight weeks of the season and set a record by beating seven teams ranked in

the top 10 at the time of the game. Miami in 1987 and Alabama in 2015 each beat five teams ranked in the top 10 at the time of their games.

LSU also did it impressively: The Tigers beat teams that were ranked 2, 4, 6, 7, and 8 in the final Top 25 by an average margin of 20 points.

"Now I think that this team is going to be mentioned as one of the greatest teams in college football history," LSU coach Ed Orgeron said. "15-0, one of the greatest teams in LSU history, led by some of the greatest players. Give them all the credit."

The Tigers also won AP titles in 2007 and 1958.

Georgia, LSU's Southeastern Conference rival, was fourth and Pac-12 champion Oregon was fifth. Florida was sixth and Oklahoma, which made the playoff, was seventh.

Alabama finished eighth, its lowest final ranking since 2010, giving the SEC four of the top 10. It's the fifth time one conference has had four teams in the final top 10, and fourth for the SEC. No. 9 Penn State and No. 10 Minnesota gave the Big Ten three teams in the top 10.

Navy finished No. 20 and



LSU celebrates after their win against Clemson in a NCAA College Football Playoff national championship game Monday, Jan. 13, 2020, in New Orleans.

Associated Press

Air Force was ranked No. 22, marking the first time two service academies were in the final AP poll of the season since 1958.

Navy was one of four Amer-

ican Athletic Conference schools in the final rankings, a new high for the conference. Memphis was 17th, Cincinnati 21st and UCF 24th. □

Warren's big night, late block help Pacers rally past 76ers

By The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — T.J. Warren scored 21 points and blocked a late 3-pointer that would have given Philadelphia the lead to help the Indiana Pacers hold on for a 101-95 victory over the 76ers on Monday night.

The Pacers have now beaten the 76ers twice in 14 days, this time after charging back from an 11-point deficit midway through the third quarter. Malcolm Brogdon also had 21 points and added seven rebounds and nine assists. Ben Simmons had 24 points and 14 rebounds for the 76ers. Josh Richardson added 23 points, 17 in the fourth quarter as Philadelphia fell to 1-2 since losing Joel Embiid with an injured finger on his left hand.

LAKERS 128, CAVALIERS 99

LOS ANGELES (AP) — LeBron James scored 23 of his 31 points in a dominant second half, and Dwight Howard added season highs of 21 points and 15 rebounds in Los Angeles' ninth consecutive victory.

James added eight assists while passing Isaiah Thomas for sole possession of eighth place on the NBA's career list. The longtime Cavaliers superstar led a decisive run during the third quarter and poured it on in the fourth for the Lakers, who still haven't lost since Christmas.

Los Angeles won its third straight game without Anthony Davis, who is out with a bruised backside.

Kevin Love had 21 points and 11 rebounds for Cleveland in the third stop of a six-game road stretch. Two days after the Cavs posted a surprising win at powerhouse Denver, they couldn't keep up with a franchise icon who hasn't slowed down since he moved to the West Coast.

THUNDER 117, TIMBERWOLVES 104

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 20 points, a career-high 20 rebounds and 10 assists in his first triple-double, leading Oklahoma City over Minnesota.

Gilgeous-Alexander came in averaging 23.7 points in



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, left, dunks as center JaVale McGee, right, watches along with Cleveland Cavaliers center Tristan Thompson, below, during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Jan. 13, 2020, in Los Angeles. The Lakers won 128-99.

Associated Press

his previous 13 games but did much more than score in this one, also matching his career best in assists. Danilo Gallinari scored 30 points for the Thunder, who have won 12 of their past 15 games and six of seven on the road. He was 11 for 12 from the free throw line. Naz Reid scored 20 off the bench for Minnesota, which was still without Karl-Anthony Towns. Reid has scored in double figures in six of the last eight games. Robert Covington scored 18 points.

CELTICS 113, BULLS 101

BOSTON (AP) — Jayson Tatum scored 21 points, Jaylen Brown 19 and Boston coasted over Chicago. Enes Kanter had 15 points and nine rebounds, Kemba Walker added 14 points and Marcus Smart had 12 points for Boston, which won its second straight after a season-high three-game losing streak. Zach LaVine led the Bulls with 30 points, including a couple of highlight dunks. Thaddeus Young added 17 points for Chicago, which has lost seven of eight.

TRAIL BLAZERS 115, HOR-

NETS 112

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Damian Lillard scored 30 points, including a buzzer-beating 3-pointer from nearly halfcourt to end the third quarter, and Portland handed Charlotte its fifth straight loss.

Anthony Tolliver had a season-high 16 points, all in the fourth quarter, and the Blazers snapped a two-game overall losing streak and a four-game skid at the Moda Center. CJ McCollum finished with 27 points.

The Blazers, who led by as

many as 17 points in the first half before Charlotte closed the gap and took a third-quarter lead, have won their last six games against the Hornets.

Terry Rozier had 27 points for the Hornets, who were coming off a 100-92 loss at Phoenix the night before.

MAGIC 114, KINGS 112

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Aaron Gordon made a three-point play with 1.1 seconds remaining, and Orlando beat Sacramento. Gordon finished with 19 points and nine rebounds in his return to Orlando's lineup after missing one game with calf tightness.

Nikola Vucevic had 26 points and 15 rebounds, and Evan Fournier scored 25 points.

De'Aaron Fox had 31 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds for Sacramento. Nemanja Bjelica set career highs with 34 points and eight 3-pointers.

PELICANS 117, PISTONS 110, OT

DETROIT (AP) — Lonzo Ball scored five of his 17 points in overtime and New Orleans beat Detroit in a matchup of injury-depleted teams.

The Pistons are still missing starters Blake Griffin (knee), Luke Kennard (knee) and Reggie Jackson (back), while the Pelicans played without their top three scorers — Brandon Ingram (knee), Jrue Holiday (elbow) and JJ Redick (hamstring) — along with Derrick Favors (hamstring) and Zion Williamson (knee).

Detroit, which trailed by 16 with 11 minutes to play, tied the game at 100 on Derrick Rose's bank shot with 30 seconds left. E'Twaun Moore missed two short jumpers, giving Detroit the ball with 14 seconds remaining, but Rose missed at the buzzer.

The Pelicans opened overtime with a 9-2 run, including five points from Ball, and Rose had two turnovers in the last 90 seconds.

New Orleans has won three of four and is now 9-4 after a 6-22 start. Jalil Okafor had 25 points and 14 rebounds while Nicolo Melli scored 20 points and Moore had 16. □

Ovechkin moves up NHL goal chart, Caps top Hurricanes 2-0

By The Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin scored two first-period goals, moving into 11th place on the NHL's career list, and Ilya Samsonov stopped 23 shots for his first career shutout as the Washington Capitals beat the Carolina Hurricanes 2-0 on Monday night. The victory broke the Capitals' two-game skid and the Hurricanes' three-game winning streak. Carolina posted shutouts in its previous two games. Samsonov improved to 13-2-1. He's won eight straight games and hasn't lost since Nov. 15.

Petr Mrazek made 28 saves for the Hurricanes.

The first goal was the 685th for Ovechkin, pushing him past Teemu Selanne for 11th place on the NHL's career list. Ovechkin's second goal at 17:01 was his 28th of the season. He needs four goals to tie Mario Lemieux for 10th place with 690.

BLUES 4, DUCKS 1

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Alexander Steen scored the first goal and Brayden Schenn added two assists to lead St. Louis over Anaheim. The Blues won their ninth straight home game, tying the franchise record for one season set in 1991. The run marks the longest home winning streak in the NHL this season.

Tyler Bozak, Jaden Schwartz and Ivan Barbashev also scored for the Blues, who



Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin (8), from Russia, and Carolina Hurricanes defenseman Brett Pesce (22) reach for the puck during the second period of an NHL hockey game, on Monday, Jan. 13, 2020, in Washington.

have won four in a row after a three-game skid. The defending Stanley Cup champions are 12-2-1 in their past 15 games.

Through 47 games, the Blues (30-10-7) are tied for first in the NHL (67 points) with Washington.

Max Comtois had the lone goal for Anaheim, which has lost four straight. The Ducks are 3-9-1 in their past 13 games.

Backup goaltender Jake Allen improved to 8-3-3 for St. Louis. He stopped 20 shots.

Ducks goalie John Gibson made 30 saves and fell to 13-19-3. He is 1-5-1 in his last

seven starts.

FLYERS 6, BRUINS 5, SO

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Bruins star Brad Marchand over-skated the puck at center ice on a shootout attempt, clinching Philadelphia's victory over Boston.

Travis Konecny scored in the fifth round of the shootout for Philadelphia, and Marchand lined up for his turn needing to score to keep the game going. The two-time All-Star charged toward the resting puck but barely nipped it as he skated past.

Officials met briefly before signaling the game was over. Because Marchand

made contact with the puck, it was considered a shot attempt.

Travis Sanheim scored twice in regulation for the Flyers, who rallied from a three-goal deficit.

Sean Couturier, Connor Bunnaman and Kevin Hayes also scored for the Flyers, who were down 5-2 with 12½ minutes left in the second period. Philadelphia improved to 15-3-4 at home.

David Krejci had two goals and Anders Bjork, Charlie Coyle and David Pastrnak also scored for the Bruins, who gained a point but fell to 0-7 in shootouts.

RANGERS 6, ISLANDERS 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Artemi Panarin had two goals and three assists to match a career high with five points, and the New York Rangers beat the rival Islanders in their first meetings of the season. Jesper Fast had a goal and two assists, Adam Fox added a goal and an assist, and Chris Kreider and Jacob Trouba also scored to help the Rangers get their third win in four games overall and fifth straight at home. Brady Skjei had two assists and Alexandar Georgiev stopped 32 shots. Jordan Eberle and Brock Nelson each had a goal and an assist for the Islanders during their eighth loss in 13 games (5-6-2). Semyon Varlamov made 29 saves on 35 shots before being pulled midway through the third period.

CANADIENS 2, FLAMES 0

MONTREAL (AP) — Carey Price made 31 saves for his second shutout of the season and Montreal snapped Calgary's five-game winning streak.

Jordan Weal and rookie Ryan Poehling scored for the Canadiens, who have won two straight since losing eight in a row.

Price's shutout was the 46th of his career, tying Ken Dryden for third on the franchise list.

David Rittich stopped 35 shots for the Flames, who have been shut out six times. □

Australian Open qualifying begins despite poor air quality

MELBOURNE, Australia

(AP) — Smoke haze and poor air quality caused by wildfires temporarily suspended practice sessions for the Australian Open at Melbourne Park on Tuesday, but qualifying began later in the morning in "very poor" conditions and amid complaints by at least one player who was forced to forfeit her match.

At the Kooyong Classic exhibition in Melbourne, former No. 1-ranked Maria Sharapova struggled in

the heat and smoke and her match against Laura Siegemund was called off late in the second set. Siegemund won the first set in a tiebreaker but players and officials decided to stop play at 5-5 in the second.

"Both players are feeling the smoke so we are going to stop the match at this point," the umpire said.

At Melbourne Park, Slovenian Dalila Jakupovic was leading her first-round Australian Open qualifying match against Switzer-

land's Stefanie Voegele when she dropped to her knees with a coughing spell.

Ranked 180th, Jakupovic was a set up and one point away from a tiebreaker in the second set when she experienced breathing difficulties and retired from the match.

"I was really scared that I would collapse," Jakupovic told Australian Associated Press. "I don't have asthma and never had breathing problems. I actually like heat. The physio



A spectator wears a mask as smoke haze shrouds Melbourne during an Australian Open practice session at Melbourne Park in Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020.

Associated Press

came again and I thought it would be better. But the points were a bit longer and I just couldn't breathe anymore and I just fell on

the floor." Jakupovic said it was "not fair" that officials asked players to take the court in those conditions. □

NASCAR changes rules to try to improve short-track racing

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —

NASCAR has changed the rules on its aerodynamic package for short tracks and road courses because the racing didn't improve at those venues under rules introduced last season.

NASCAR had been fairly adamant the rules package would remain unchanged but reversed course late last season when it was evident the racing clearly had suffered at smaller tracks.

The most glaring issue was a ho-hum penultimate race at Phoenix Raceway, which this season will host the championship finale.

A week after the dud in Phoenix, NASCAR President Steve Phelps promised fans the sanctioning body was working on improving the

racing at short tracks.

Teams will now use a separate rules package at Bristol, Dover, Martinsville, New Hampshire, Phoenix, Richmond, the Charlotte Roval, Sonoma and Watkins Glen. The changes include a significantly smaller rear spoiler, which shrinks from an 8-inch height to 2.75 inches.

The front splitter's overhang will now measure a quarter-inch (down from 2 inches), with approximately 2-inch wings (reduced from 10.5 inches).

The dimensions of the pan remain the same.

"Our goal has always been to provide the best possible racing for our fans, regardless of venue," said Steve O'Donnell, NASCAR executive vice president and chief racing development officer. □

Sainz's Dakar Rally lead down to 24 seconds over Al-Attiyah

HARADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)

— Carlos Sainz's lead of the Dakar Rally was slashed for a second straight day and reduced to 24 seconds on Tuesday with three stages to go.

Sainz was powering over the 410-kilometer stony route from Wadi Al-Dawasir northeast to Haradh with title rivals Nasser Al-Attiyah and Stephane Peterhansel when he made a navigation error and was left behind.

The Spaniard conceded five minutes at the time then lost tread on a tire and eventually finished 6 1/2 minutes behind Peterhansel, who earned a rally-leading third stage win.

Sainz, 10 minutes up on Al-Attiyah on Sunday, was just 24 seconds up on the defending champion from Qatar.

But Al-Attiyah was wary



Driver Nasser Al-Attiyah, of Qatar, and co-driver Matthieu Baumel, of France, race their Toyota during stage nine of the Dakar Rally between Wadi Al Dawasir and Haradh, Saudi Arabia, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020.

Associated Press

that there was still lots of room for error on Wednesday on the longest stage, 534 kilometers.

"Peterhansel, third overall, was 6 1/2 minutes back. The teammate of Sainz was chasing his 14th Dakar vic-

tory, and eighth in cars. "We made no mistakes at all with the navigation," Peterhansel said. "We only lost 10 or 15 minutes, but that's nothing.

We'll try to keep the pressure on the leader." □

Astros

Continued from Page 18

But does anyone really believe it?

Watch the second inning of Game 3 once again and then decide. That's when Darvish was touched up for four runs and the Astros took a 2-1 lead in the series.

It was almost as if the hitters knew what was coming — which, of course, they did.

If you're still not convinced, Game 5 should be evidence enough. Like Game 3 it took place at Minute Maid Park, where the cameras were rolling, the dugout trash can was booming and the Astros bats were blazing.

All with arguably the best pitcher in baseball since the turn of the century on the mound for the Dodgers. Kershaw didn't make it out of the fifth inning, surrendering six runs in a wild game that saw the Dodgers score a dozen times — and still lose.

Kershaw, Darvish and the rest of the Dodgers were



In this Oct. 23, 2017, file photo, Houston Astros bench coach Alex Cora watches batting practice during media day for baseball's World Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

called chokers. Manager Dave Roberts was taken to task on social media for not handling his pitchers properly.

It turns out what really happened is the Astros cheated. Cora, their bench coach at the time, concocted a scheme to steal signs that made an already good team even better.

To make matters worse, they celebrated on the field at Dodger Stadium like they had earned every moment of it.

The bitter taste still lingers

for both Dodger fans and players.

"We were close, but we did it the right way," National League MVP Cody Bellinger told ESPN before the results of MLB's investigation were released.

It didn't help that the Dodgers would make the World Series the next year, too, only to see the visiting team celebrating a championship once again at Dodger Stadium. And who was the manager jumping up and down with his players and spraying champagne with his players for

the second year in a row at Chavez Ravine?

That would be Cora, who at least for the moment is still the manager of the Red Sox. Manfred didn't discipline him Monday but only because MLB is still investigating to see if Cora cheated in Boston as much as he did in Houston. And cheat he did as the bench coach of the Astros, setting up the system that fed sign sequences to a monitor near the dugout. Manfred's investigation put Cora at the center of it all, and the guess is he will eventually be kicked out of baseball, never to return.

So now the Astros will go down in baseball infamy for being cheaters on a level never seen before. They're not quite the Black Sox of 1919 but the damage they've done to the sport is not insignificant.

Their reputation is in tatters, the feel good story of a city recovering from Hurricane Harvey obliterated. There's an asterisk attached to their championship, and

no way for their fans to feel good about anything from the 2017 season.

There's also no way to make things right for the Dodgers, who were the real victims in all this.

Baseball isn't about to vacate a title from three years back, and you can't claim a championship you didn't win on the field anyway, even if you were cheated. In the end, the Dodgers never got to hold the World Series trophy.

They sat and shed tears in their clubhouse after Game 7 instead of celebrating with 55,000 faithful fans.

There's one other thing they missed out on, as Darvish — who was pretty much run out of town by angry Dodger fans after the series — reminded everyone on Twitter after the news broke.

"If the Dodgers are planning a 2017 World Series parade, I would love to join!" Darvish tweeted. "So if that is in the works, can someone make a Yu Garbage Jersey for me?" □

WNBA's 8-year labor deal to hike average salary to \$130,000

By **DOUG FEINBERG**
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The WNBA and its union announced a tentative eight-year labor deal Tuesday that will allow top players to earn more than \$500,000 while the average annual compensation will surpass six figures for the first time. The contract, which begins this season and runs through 2027, will pay players an average of \$130,000 and guarantees full salaries while on maternity leave. The collective bargaining agreement also provides enhanced family benefits, travel standards and other health and wellness improvements.

"I call it historic," WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert said in a phone interview. "The CBA guarantees substantial (financial) increases. The way we are paying these players is different than the past. ... The top couple players are tripling (in pay) where they were. Other players are making \$200,000-300,000. The average will be over \$130,000. Everyone gets an increase here." The deal was overwhelmingly approved by players and must still be ratified by owners. It calls for 50-50 revenue sharing starting in 2021, based on the league achieving revenue growth targets from broadcast agreements, marketing partnerships and licensing deals.

"I was adamant on the 50-50 target," Engelbert said. "The league and players work together to market this league so we can share revenue with the players. We have to hit some targets."

The salary cap will go up 31% to \$1.3 million in the first year — up from \$996,000 and another \$750,000 in prize money for special competitions arrives in 2021. Under this deal, the maximum base salary would increase to \$215,000 from \$117,500.

"You can pay your stars. That's how the league grows," Engelbert said. This will be the fifth CBA for the WNBA, which launched



In this Friday, May 31, 2019, file photo, Los Angeles Sparks' Chiney Ogwumike (13), obscured at left, and her sister Nneka Ogwumike celebrate after a win over the Connecticut Sun in a WNBA basketball game in Los Angeles.

in 1997. Like the last one, there is a mutual opt-out provision after six years.

The CBA also proposes a minimum of \$1.6 million in offseason league and team marketing agreements that would create up to \$300,000 in additional annual cash for select players. The rookie scale for the Nos. 1-4 picks will rise to \$68,000 — an increase of about \$15,000 from this year — plus the ability to qualify for league-guaranteed money under the marketing agreement.

"It was collaborative effort," WNBA players' union president Nneka Ogumike said. "I think that we really all had the same things in mind and had different way of getting there. We really put our heads together and came with some ideas."

Ogwumike said the labor pact provides more financial incentive for players to stay in the offseason instead of playing overseas. Former league MVP Breanna Stewart tore an Achilles tendon overseas last year and missed the entire WNBA season.

Diana Taurasi sat out a season a few years ago because her Russian team was paying her more than \$1 million and wanted her to rest.

"This agreement is reflective of the game growing and

the league growing and then the revenue share will grow," Ogwumike said. "Revenue sharing is putting your best foot forward."

Engelbert said the additional money needed to fund the CBA will come from a variety of sources.

"Teams and owners are stepping up. The league is stepping up," said the commissioner, who started last July.

She also touted the new "Changemakers" program, with key sponsors supporting the WNBA in its transformation across marketing, branding and player and fan experiences. AT&T,

Nike and Deloitte are the inaugural three business partners. "We're hoping to lift, not just women in sports and women in basketball, but women in society," Engelbert said.

The league will also expand its schedule by a few games and add an in-season Commissioner's Cup tournament this year.

The WNBA also will work with the NBA and its developmental league and college basketball to promote players for coaching opportunities. Engelbert said players can get paid at the market rate even if the NBA franchise is affiliat-

ed with a WNBA team. This was an issue last year when Washington Mystics guard Kristi Toliver could earn only \$10,000 as an assistant for the Wizards because of pay restrictions in the previous CBA.

Other highlights of the CBA include:

—Travel improvements where players are given premium economy airline tickets as well as individual rooms on road trips. In the past, players flew coach and some shared rooms.

—A more liberal free agency system that allows players to become unrestricted free agents sooner beginning next year if they aren't given the "core" designation by their team. It also drops the number of times a player can be so designated from four to three beginning this year and down to two beginning in 2022.

—Players receive their full salary while on maternity leave, are given two-bedroom apartments for players with children as well as workplace accommodations that provide privacy for nursing mothers.

—The league is also introducing family planning benefits of up to a \$60,000 reimbursement for veteran players for costs directly related to adoption, surrogacy and fertility treatment.

—Enhanced mental health benefits and resources. □

Associated Press

Bears say they will hold training camp at home

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP) —

The Chicago Bears will hold their entire training camp at their headquarters rather than spend the first few weeks in Bourbonnais, Illinois.

The Bears announced Tuesday they will remain at Halas Hall rather than practice the first few weeks 90 miles south at Olivet Nazarene University, as they have for 18 years. They held camp at Wisconsin-Platteville from 1984-2001.

Practices in Bourbonnais were a big draw for Bears

fans. The team said free tickets for workouts at Halas Hall will be made available this spring.

The facility has undergone a major transformation in recent years with two new practice fields and more parking spaces added, two big reasons the Bears can now hold camp there. They also expanded their headquarters, adding a new locker room, weight room, cafeteria, conference rooms and offices. "Olivet Nazarene University continues to be a valued and com-

mitted partner, but with the recent investment in our campus expansion and state-of-the-art facilities in Lake Forest, we feel it is important to stay home for training camp," president Ted Phillips said. "We would like to thank Olivet Nazarene University, including president John Bowling, and the Bourbonnais community for their 18 years of partnership and hospitality."

The last time the Bears held camp at home was at Lake Forest College from 1975-83. □



By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Foods made from wheat and other grains are staples in North American and European diets. We have been programmed to have grain products be our diet foundation. Shifting our eating habits towards breads and other processed flour products has been easier for government agencies and the food industry to manage. Less refined grains, often in combination, as with granola cereals and whole wheat breads fortified with bran, coarse flours, and other additives are now eaten in large quantities because they have been presented as 'health' foods. Unfortunately, wheat and its close relatives, barley, rye and oats have been proven to cause health problems in the diets of many people. Wheat intolerance or allergies rank second only to milk allergies when we review our patient's medical complaints. It could be that in the Bible's Luke 4:4, which says: "Not on bread alone shall man be living, but on every declaration of God", has relevance in today's world. By the way, the bread of this time was usually made from the less offensive, whole grain millet, not wheat.

Grains are popular foods because of their ability to react with live yeast to form the rising or lightness and taste. The component that allows this reaction to take place is proteins in the grains collectively called "gluten". The cereal grains, wheat, rye, oats and barley all contain similar proteins. In many people, especially in individuals with blood types O and A, gluten reacts by exciting our im-

mune responses especially in the gastrointestinal tract. In other words, many people are allergic to gluten. Grains can present many other problems including negative reactions to the grain contaminated with pesticides, preservatives, and molds. But, that will be another article.

Celiac Disease is the best-recognized form of gluten allergy and is also called gluten intolerance. Actually, I am not the only medical professional who believes that every person with type O blood is gluten intolerant and, thus, on the waiting list to develop type II diabetes. Symptoms of celiac disease can range from diarrhea, weight loss, and malnutrition, to isolated nutrient deficiencies with no gastrointestinal symptoms. The disease is thought to be highest among people of Northern European descent, but we now know that it also affects Hispanic, Black and Asian populations equally as well. Those affected suffer damage to their intestines when they eat specific food-grain antigens that are found in wheat, rye, barley or oats. The gastrointestinal tract is the primary target organ; however hidden symptoms may show as irritable bowel syndrome with iron deficiency anemia, with little or no diarrhea. Dr. Kelly, of

Not by Bread Alone

the Boston University Hospital, in a clinic pathological review of celiac disease stated that: "...there is increasing evidence that most people with gluten sensitivity have latent celiac disease with such mild manifestations (in the digestive tract) that the diagnosis is never made.

Wheat intolerance or allergies are associated with a variety of autoimmune disorders, carcinomas of the gastrointestinal tract and lymphomas. Increased incidences of diabetes, autoimmune thyroid disease, sarcoidosis, vasculitis, pulmonary fibrosis, encephalopathy and cerebellar atrophy have been reported in celiac patients. This is serious stuff. This relationship re-stated as simple as possible says "cereal grains cause cancer"! Now, the implications are more easily understood.

We have had patients with inflammatory arthritis that improved dramatically when we removed milk and grain products, especially wheat, from their diet. The occurrence of pain in joints, particularly the hands, with slight swelling, stiffness and loss of mobility is the early presentation of allergic arthritis; can occur strictly as a manifestation of gluten allergy.

High cholesterol, skin disorders, obesity and its

dangerous health consequences can all be effects of wheat allergies. If any of these symptoms are a problem, a visit to your clinical nutritionist could help you safely change your diet and regain your optimal health.

Get the Point! We have known about the disease bearing consequences of eating wheat and other grains for years already. Why have you not been informed by public health organizations? What about fiber? Brown (whole grain) rice, which is not known to cause health problems in any blood type is full of nutritious B Vitamins and eaten daily, keeps your colon clean and healthy. If you want to check what food and chemical intolerances are negatively affecting your good looks and health, check in with a Certified Clinical Nutritionist or holistic physician trained in nutrition. Who knows, the bread or the cancer you avoid might be yours. □



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Rebounding Atlantic City casinos see \$3.3B revenue in 2019

By WAYNE PARRY
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)

— Atlantic City's casinos won almost \$3.3 billion from gamblers in 2019, helped by surging sports and internet bets as the seaside resort continued to rebound from a mid-decade meltdown that saw five casinos close.

Figures released Tuesday by the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement show the nine casinos collectively won \$3.29 billion in 2019, an increase of over 15% from 2018.

When an additional \$300 million in sports betting revenue is added to the equation, the casinos and two racetracks that offer sports betting won \$3.46 billion last year, a figure that does not include money from horse racing bets.

It marked the first year since 2012 that Atlantic City's casinos had won more than \$3 billion from gamblers.

That was right before a brutal stretch from 2014 to 2016 that saw five of the then-12 casinos shut down, and more than 11,000 jobs lost.

The reopening in 2018 of the former Trump Taj Mahal as Hard Rock and the former Revel as the Ocean Casino Resort has brought added revenue and jobs to the market.

But those same two new casinos also are diluting the profitability of the seven casinos that were in business before they reopened. For the first three quarters of 2019, the nine casinos reported a cumulative gross operating profit of \$484 million, down 4.5% from the same period in 2018. "The

revenue increase is a positive," said David Schwartz, a gambling historian with the University of Nevada Las Vegas. "Right now the industry should be in 'grow-the-market' mode rather than seeking to consolidate profits, so a decrease in profits isn't necessarily the worst news we could get. Overall, what Atlantic City needs right now is to improve its image and marketing and become a destination in a crowded Northeast casino market."

Rummy Pandit, a gambling analyst with Stockton University, said Atlantic City has successfully diversified its gambling offerings, particularly through sports betting and internet gambling. Those two products, developed since November 2013, now account for more than 18% of Atlantic City's winnings, he said.

The news was not all positive. Five of the nine casinos won less money in 2019 than they did in 2018. Tropicana was down 8.2% to \$349.5 million; Harrah's was down 6.1% to \$312.6 million; Bally's was down 5.4% to \$181.5 million; Caesars was down 3.7% to \$270.9 million; and Resorts was down 3.2% to \$178.4 million.

The Golden Nugget was up 15.4% to \$378.4 million. It finished the year as the No. 2 casino in Atlantic City in terms of revenue. The perennial leader, Borgata, was up 3.5% to \$797.8 million.

There was no year-to-year comparison for the newest casinos, which had not been open for a full year in 2018. For 2019, Hard Rock won \$350 million, and Ocean won \$238 million.

New Jersey had a banner year at sports betting, with nearly \$4.6 billion wagered on pro and college games. The state won a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case in 2018, clearing the way for all 50 states to offer legal sports betting should they so choose. Since the first bets were taken in New Jersey in June 2018, more than \$5.8 billion has been wagered on sports, putting the state right behind Nevada in the race to lead the burgeoning market.

The Meadowlands Race-track in East Rutherford, just outside New York City, was the runaway leader in sports betting revenue with just under \$150 million. It is partnered with the FanDuel sportsbook.

The other racetrack to offer sports betting, Monmouth Park in Oceanport, won nearly \$26 million in sports bets. Resorts Digital, which is affiliated with the DraftKings online sports book, won nearly \$80 million on sports.

Internet gambling also continued to be a bright spot in 2019, with \$482 million won online from gamblers, an increase of more than 61% over 2018. In the month of December, nearly \$558 million was wagered on sports in New Jersey, the second-best month ever, trailing only November's total of nearly \$563 million. □



In this June 20, 2019 photo, a dealer throws the roulette ball during a game at the Hard Rock casino in Atlantic City, N.J.

Associated Press

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Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director
Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief
Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Editors
Richard Brooks
Jeancarlo Trinidad

Sales
Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
Juan Luis Pinto
Pilar Flores

Columnists
Anthony Croes
Joris Zantvoort
Shanella Pantophlet
Steve Francees
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
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Mutts



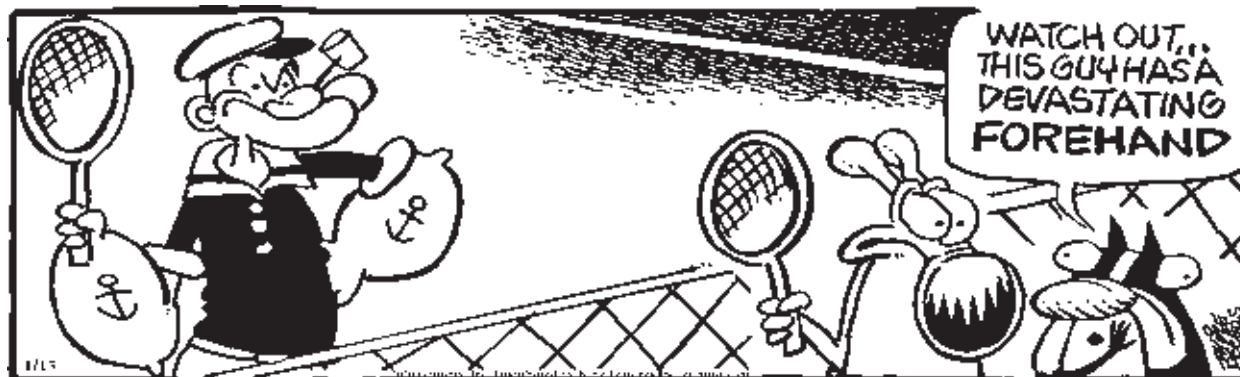
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

								4
			7	9			8	3
	3				4		2	
2	5	7	9			4		
			6			1		
9	1	8				2		6
8		4				3		5
	9			5	6		8	9

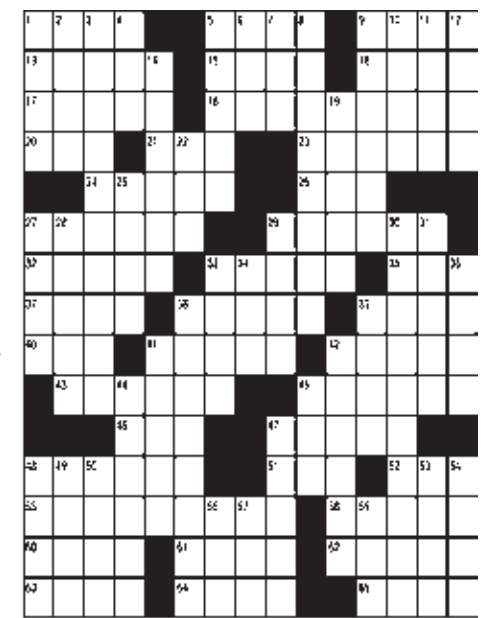
Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	7	8	2	4	5	1	6	3
4	1	3	6	7	8	5	9	2
5	6	2	3	1	9	8	4	7
2	8	7	9	3	6	4	1	5
3	4	9	1	5	7	6	2	8
1	5	6	4	8	2	7	3	9
7	2	4	5	6	3	9	8	1
6	3	5	8	9	1	2	7	4
8	9	1	7	2	4	3	5	6

- ACROSS**
- Come across
 - and ends: nodgepodge
 - Goose ... zeros
 - scades: high card
 - Give off a strong odor
 - Dictionary near Webster
 - About 39-37 inches
 - Put down, ration
 - St... for keen or team
 - "Miss", southern civ
 - Underc... ransacked
 - Refuse
 - Texer's giggle
 - Fake
 - Chaos
 - Endures
 - Vakes booties
 - Beanie
 - Flying saucers
 - Chars & perches
 - Soft cheese
 - Lewer
 - Marshmallow chicks
 - Lying face down
 - Renovate make over
 - Baby's underwear
 - ... we there yet?
 - Dirtyness
 - Fed... stealthily
 - ... os fires
 - Word attached to tea, or cake
 - Last month's holiday
 - scraps tea remnants
 - Bumpens
 - Finale
 - up: cinders
 - as an ow
 - Live pinkie chicks
 - Ariz... to New Mex direction



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

1/15/20

- DOWN**
- Achieves ... becomes well-known
 - Frosts a cake
 - Imitating
 - Female animal
 - Neatness
 - Shantell grade
 - Lion's lair
 - Frying pans
 - ... in: register for
 - Billy ... male animal
 - Fence opening
 - Small outbuilding
 - Palm leaves
 - Derive the ... produce results
 - Actor ... G. Carol
 - Pitcher's designs
 - Sink stopper
 - Not as risky
 - Tiny pieces
 - Fear of heights
 - "The Pine Tree State"
 - Preserve
 - Short rest
 - One's equal
- Tuesday's Puzzle Solved**
- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------|
| RAG | SHIPS | MONK |
| AMOR | EAT IT | ONCE |
| NINE | RISER | SLIP |
| DESPERADO | CYST | |
| PONY | LEO | |
| STRIKE | DELAWARE | |
| CRATE | BUYER | WON |
| HAZE | MAKER | TAUT |
| ADO | DALES | TERSE |
| PERFORMS | READER | |
| LAG | BIER | |
| ECHO | IMMENSITY | |
| GROW | NEARS | NOON |
| GORE | AMPLE | GAGA |
| SCAR | LOSES | DAY |
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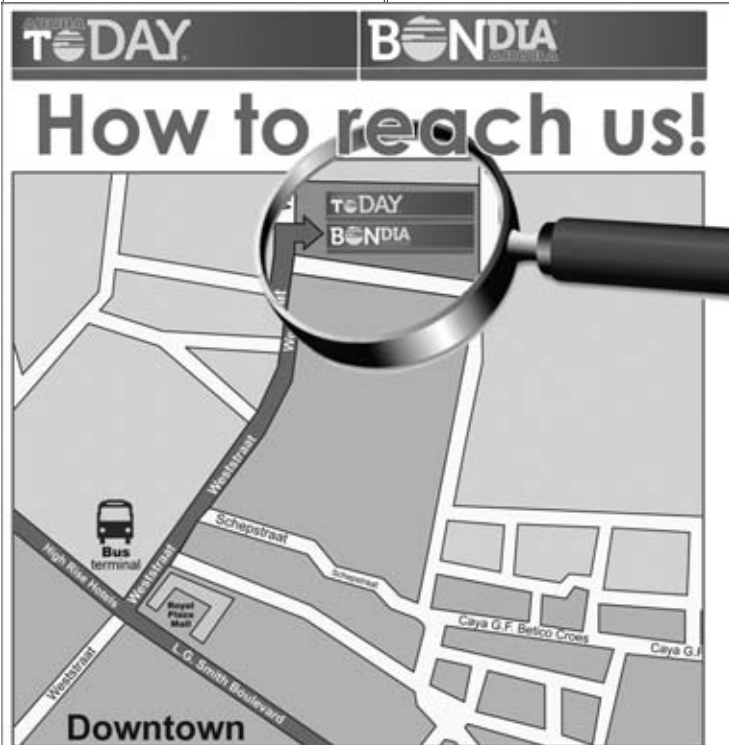
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EU lays out 1 trillion-euro plan to support Green Deal

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union plans to dedicate a quarter of its budget to tackling climate change and to work to shift 1 trillion euros (\$1.1 trillion) in investment toward making the EU's economy more environmentally friendly over the next 10 years.

Aiming to deliver on European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's Green Deal, EU officials said the Europe Investment Plan unveiled Tuesday will be funded by the bloc's budget and by the private sector.

It includes a mechanism designed to help the regions that would be most disrupted economically by the transition to cleaner industries.

Von der Leyen took office Dec. 1 and has made the fight against climate change the priority of her term as president of the EU's executive arm. Her Green Deal is aimed at making Europe the world's first carbon-neutral continent by 2050.

"We will support our people and our regions that need to make bigger efforts in this transformation, to make sure that we leave no one behind," she said.

The European Commission says that half of the investment will come from the EU budget. National governments will contribute 100 billion euros and 300 billion euros will come from the private sector.

Another 7.5 billion euros from the 2021-2027 EU budget is earmarked as seed funding within a broader mechanism expected to generate another 100 billion euros in investment. That money will be designed to convince coal-



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen delivers her speech at the European parliament Tuesday, Jan.14, 2020 in Strasbourg, eastern France.

Associated Press

dependent countries like Poland to embrace the Green Deal by helping them weather the financial and social costs of moving away from fossil fuels.

"This is our pledge of solidarity and fairness," said Frans Timmermans, the Dutch politician tapped as executive vice president of the European Green Deal.

The plan would allocate the money according to specific criteria. For example, regions where a large number of people work in coal, peat mining or shale oil and gas would get priority.

EU leaders agreed last month to make the bloc's economy carbon neutral by the middle of the century, but Poland, which depends on coal for much of its energy needs, did not immediately agree to the timeline.

"The workers losing their jobs should be helped for re-skilling. There will be support for new infrastructure,

job-seeking assistance, investment in new productive activities. And the regions where existing activities will cease will also need to be regenerated," said a senior commission official, who was not authorized to speak publicly as a matter of practice.

The final amount of financing from the plan will depend on discussions between EU countries on the next multi-annual EU budget.

Johan Van Overtveldt, the head of the EU parliament's Budget Committee, was skeptical about how the

scheme set-up.

"It carries a one-trillion euros prize tag," he said. "Where the money should be coming from remains extremely unclear. We are against the recycling of promises and money. We don't back creative bookkeeping and financial adventures."

The Greens group in the European Parliament, meanwhile, rued the fact that the commission did not tie the money to a deadline for the phasing out coal.

"No money should be distributed from this fund before there are clear commitments and concrete

dates for the coal phase-out from member states," Green European lawmaker Niklas Nienass said. "Poland should sign up to EU climate targets before being eligible to money under the Just Transition Fund."

The European Commission said the plan will also be supported by money from EU regional programs, from the InvestEU Program, which mobilizes public and private investment using an EU budget guarantee, and from the European Investment Bank.

According to the commission's estimates, meeting the 2030 climate goals - which include reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% from 1990 levels - will cost an additional 260 million euros per year.

In order to qualify for the financial support, member states will need to present plans to restructure their economy detailing low-emission projects. The plans will need the commission's approval.

Projects including nuclear power won't be eligible for funding, except for those related to Euratom's program for nuclear research and training.

European lawmakers are expected to hold a non-binding vote on a Green Deal resolution on Wednesday and von der Leyen wants to have a climate law adopted by March. □

Gene-editing tool's pioneers win Israel's Wolf Prize

JERUSALEM (AP) — Two global pioneers of modern gene-editing technology were awarded Monday Israel's prestigious Wolf Prize in medicine.

The Wolf Foundation said it was recognizing Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier for their work in developing the gene-editing tool CRISPR.

Their research has the potential to "revolutionize medicine by paving the way to finding new forms of treatment for currently incurable diseases," the foundation said.

Gene editing is a way to permanently change DNA to attack the root causes of a gene-based disease. It can serve a wide variety of other uses too — from attacking malaria in mosquitoes to breeding harder crops. CRISPR is a tool that seeks out a precise piece of DNA inside living cells and slices it, allowing scientists to turn genes on or off, repair or replace them. It's long been used in the lab and is in early-stage testing for treating cancer and other diseases.

Doudna is also being recognized for her contribution to the ethical discourse surrounding this technology's use, the foundation said. The Wolf Prize is considered one of the forerunners to a Nobel Prize. About three dozen Wolf laureates have gone on to win a Nobel.

Each year the Wolf Foundation honors artists and scientists in five fields "for achievements in the interest of mankind and friendly relations among peoples" with the \$100,000 prize. □

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Dutch YouTube star Nikkie de Jager says she is transgender

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Dutch YouTube celebrity Nikkie de Jager, whose makeup advice channel NikkieTutorials has millions of followers around the world, has come out as transgender, saying she took the decision to share her story after being blackmailed. "When I was younger I was born in the wrong body which means that I am transgender," she said. By Tuesday afternoon, the video posted late Monday had been viewed more than 16.5 million times. "Oh my God, this feels so liberating, you have no idea," she said in the video. "For 11 years that I've had my channel this has been with me, and I always wanted to share this with you, but I cannot believe that after today the world will know." De Jager said she'd always planned to share the information with her followers, but never found the right time. In the end, blackmail-

ers forced her hand. "I have been blackmailed by people that wanted to leak my story to the press, and at first it was frightening," she said. "It was frightening to know that there are people out there that are so evil that they can't respect someone's true identity. It is vile and it is gross." In the video, she revealed that she had always felt like a girl, began wearing dresses when she was age 7 or 8, and started taking hormones at around age 14. By 19-years-old, she said she had made the "full transition" to being a woman, she said. "Today's the day. I am free and I get to be me, finally," she said. "Please know that this doesn't change anything about me." In a post on Instagram Tuesday, she thanked her followers for the "incredible amount of love and support" she had received since posting the video. □

'Jeopardy!' producers say controversial question was mistake

NEW YORK (AP) — Producers of the game show "Jeopardy!" have apologized for a clue that waded into political hot water involving Israeli control of the West Bank, saying an incorrect version of the show was sent to television stations. A game shown last Friday asked contestants to identify the location of famous churches. One clue was "Built in 300s AD, the Church of the Nativity." Contestant Katie Needle answered, "What is Palestine?" and host Alex Trebek said she was incorrect. Her opponent, Jack McGuire, answered "what is Israel?" and was awarded \$200. The show was immediately

attacked on social media. The church, in Bethlehem, is located in the West Bank. Some countries recognize that as the state of Palestine while others, including the United States, do not. "Jeopardy!" producers, in a statement on the show's website Monday, said they realized the question was problematic and replaced it with another. The outcome of the game was not affected. However, due to what "Jeopardy!" called human error, the uncorrected version of the pre-taped show was sent to television stations by mistake. "We regret the error and we will make sure this never happens again," the show said in a statement. □



Priyanka Chopra, left, and Nick Jonas arrive at the 77th annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

Priyanka Chopra Jonas joining Amazon's spy series 'Citadel'

By LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) —

Priyanka Chopra Jonas will star opposite Richard Madden in the U.S. edition of "Citadel," a drama series to be produced in conjunction with programs from several other countries. "The idea is to create a truly global, action-packed spy series," Amazon Studios chief Jennifer Salke said. "It's a totally innovative, multifaceted international approach to storytelling, and we can't wait to tell you more as it comes together." Local-language productions are being done in Italy and India, with another announced Tuesday in Mexico. Amazon called the U.S. version the "mother-ship" of the project, with production set to begin this summer. Film star Chopra Jonas was in the ABC TV series "Quantico." Madden starred in the award-winning BBC and Netflix series "Bodyguard." The other "Citadel" productions will "enhance the experience of engaging with the show," Salke

said. Further details and release dates were not announced.

Also announced by the streaming service during its presentation at a TV critics meeting:

— Meagan Good is among the stars of an upcoming Amazon comedy from "Girls Trip" creator Tracy Oliver.

The untitled, half-hour series revolves around four African American college friends in pursuit of their dreams, the streaming service said.

Good ("Star," "Think Like a Man") plays the "stylish, sunny" Camille, who teaches an anthropology course on sex and love at Columbia University.

Also starring are Grace Byers ("Empire"), Jerrie Johnson ("Good Trouble") and Shoniqua Shandai ("I Am the Night").

Byers plays trust-fund baby and fashion designer Quinn; Shandai portrays aspiring singer Angie and Johnson plays Tye, described as "an alpha fierce, queer successful app developer."

The series reunites Oliver with "Girls Trip" director Mal-

colm D. Lee, who will direct the first two episodes. Pharrell Williams is joining the show's executive producers, which include Oliver and Amy Poehler,

— Amazon is touting the cast of a new "The Lord of the Rings" series as multi-generational actors "from around the globe," including British-Iranian actress Nazanin Boniadi and Australian actor-musician Tom Budge.

But the streaming service declined to say which characters — or the races — they or other cast members announced Tuesday will be playing.

Other details of the production also are being kept under wraps but "everything is moving forward," Salke said.

The series will "explore new storylines" preceding J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Fellowship of the Ring," Amazon said.

Other actors in the series based on Tolkien's works include Joseph Mawle, who played Benjen Stark on "Game of Thrones," Morfydd Clark ("His Dark Materials") and Ismael Cruz Cordova ("Ray Donovan," "Mary Queen of Scots"). □



In this Dec. 16, 2019 file photo, Spike Lee arrives at the world premiere of "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" in Los Angeles. Associated Press

Cannes does 'right thing' in appointing Spike Lee to lead

**'By ANGELA CHARLTON
Associated Press**

PARIS (AP) — American director Spike Lee will lead the jury of this year's Cannes Film Festival, the first black person to hold the post in the event's 73-year history. Festival organizers hope Lee will "shake things up" among the world's cinema elite at the festival which runs May 12-23. And anti-racism campaigners hope Lee's appointment wakes up the French cultural world to persistent discrimination and the damaging stereotypes it perpetuates. Lee said he was "honored to be the first person of the African diaspora" chosen for the prestigious position. Festival organizer Thierry Fremaux said Lee is the first black president of any major film festival, calling the decision a "message of universality." Speaking on France's RTL radio, Fremaux said it wasn't a political decision, but noted that black

artists are underrepresented in the cinema world.

Many of Lee's films have been shown at Cannes, and his "BlackKkKlansman" won a major prize at Cannes two years ago. This year's festival runs May 12-23, and the rest of the jury members will be announced in April.

"When I got the call ... I was shocked, happy, surprised and proud all at the same time," Lee said in a letter. He said Cannes "changed the trajectory of who I became in world cinema."

Several of Lee's films first screened at Cannes, including "Do the Right Thing" in 1989.

Without explicitly mentioning Lee's career-long fight against racism or other political views, the festival said Lee's "perspective is more valuable than ever" and that "Cannes is a natural homeland and a global sounding board for those who (re)awaken minds

and question our stances and fixed ideas."

Ladj Ly, whose film "Les Misérables" echoes some of Lee's work and tackles tensions between police and minorities in a poor Paris suburb, hailed the move by festival organizers. "Les Misérables" screened at Cannes last year and won an Oscar nomination Monday for best international film.

The honorary president of French black rights group CRAN also welcomed the appointment of a filmmaker who confronts viewers and powers-that-be with strong opinions about discrimination and police violence.

"The arts world considers itself above questions of discrimination," Louis-Georges Tin told The Associated Press. "But the #MeToo campaign showed that sexism is all too present in the arts world. And racism is too." □

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KRISTEN STEWART | VINCENT CASSEL

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PH MON-THU 6:05 | 8:20

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SAT 3:50 | 6:05 | 8:20 | 10:35

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SAT 1:55 | 4:00 | 6:05 | 8:10 | 10:15

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PBP MON-FRI 5:20 | 7:20 | 9:20

SAT-SUN 1:20 | 3:20 | 5:20 | 7:20 | 9:20

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PBP MON-SUN 7:20 | 9:30

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1 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATION

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-SUN 9:05

DWAYNE JOHNSON | JACK BLACK

JUMANJI

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:40

SAT-SUN 3:05 | 5:50 | 8:40

PBP MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20

SAT-SUN 1:20 | 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20

MON-THU 5:40 | 8:20

FRI 5:40 | 8:20 | 11:00

SAT 3:00 | 5:40 | 8:20

SUN 3:00 | 5:40 | 8:20

WILL SMITH | TOM HOLLAND

SPIES DISGUISE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-FRI 4:35 | 6:50

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PBP MON-FRI 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00

SAT-SUN 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00

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2 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PBP MON-FRI 5:00

SAT-SUN 2:40 | 5:00

SACIIRSE RONAN | EMMA WATSON

LITTLE WOMEN

2 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-FRI 6:05 | 9:00

SAT-SUN 3:10 | 6:05 | 9:00

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Tom Hanks' family offered Greek passport too for fire help



Tom Hanks, winner of the Cecil B. deMille Award, poses in the press room at the 77th annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, in Beverly Hills, Calif. Associated Press

**By DEREK GATOPOULOS
Associated Press**

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece's government is extending its offer of citizenship to Tom Hanks to his wife and their two children, in recognition of the family's help in assisting victims

of a deadly wildfire near Athens in 2018. Last month, Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos signed an honorary naturalization order allowing the 63-year-old actor, who has spent his recent summer vacations at a family home on the Greek island of Antiparos, to claim Greek citizenship. The decision published in a government gazette Tuesday and co-signed by Greek Interior Minister Takis Theodorikakos, revealed that the order also includes Hanks' wife, actress and producer Rita Wilson, and their two sons, Chester and Truman.

The wildfire killed more than 100 people in July 2018, sweeping through the coastal town of Mati and other nearby resorts east of Athens.

"The Hanks family gave a signal all over the world for immediate relief actions to help our fire-stricken fellow citizens," the order signed on Dec. 27 said. It added

that in their effort to assist charity efforts they had provided "exceptional services to Greece." Honorary naturalization, under Greek law, may be granted to people "who have provided exceptional services to the country or whose naturalization serves the public interest." Hanks became an Orthodox Christian before his second marriage in 1988 to Rita Wilson, who is of Greek and Bulgarian descent. Hanks, Wilson, and Hollywood producer Gary Goetzman co-produced the 2002 romantic comedy, My Big Fat Greek Wedding, which received an Academy Award nomination for best original screenplay.

In a post on Instagram last week, Hanks said: "Starting 2020 as an Honorary citizen of all of Greece! Kronia pola! (more or less, 'Many years to you!'). Hanx" The post shows the shadow of Hanks holding up his left arm against an ancient Greek statue. □

Colton Underwood of 'Bachelor' fame has memoir out March 31

NEW YORK (AP) — Paging Bachelor Nation.

Colton Underwood, the former football tight end who found true love and new fame on Season 23 of "The Bachelor" has a memoir coming out March 31. It's titled "The First Time," Gallery Books announced Tuesday.

The publisher is calling the book "unpredictable, humorous, and inspiring" as Underwood reflects on "growing up in Indiana, struggling with self-image and bullying, two time all American and three years in the NFL, and of course, his journey to find love." In a statement issued Tuesday by Gallery, Underwood said, "I'm excited to share my life in this book and hope it will give people more of an understanding of where I have come from and who I am today." Underwood, who turns 28 later this month, tried out briefly for a handful of NFL teams



This cover image released by Gallery Books shows "The First Time: Finding Myself and Looking for Love on Reality TV" by former NFL player and "The Bachelor" star Colton Underwood.

Associated Press

before his professional football career ended in 2016. Three years later, he won over Cassie Randolph on "The Bachelor" after she initially resisted committing to him. (He broke off relationships with two semi-finalists for her).

Gallery Books is an imprint of Simon & Schuster. □



Mandy Patinkin, left, and Claire Danes participate in the Showtime "Homeland," panel during the Winter 2020 Television Critics Association Press Tour on Monday, Jan. 13, 2020, in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

'Homeland' star Patinkin lauds intelligence community

By LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)

— The U.S. intelligence sector has a staunch defender in "Homeland" star Mandy Patinkin. During a panel discussion about the Showtime spy thriller's final season, Patinkin delivered a passionate speech about the respect he said it deserves and isn't getting from the White House.

"To watch this current administration, and the con-

tagion and cancer that affects the world globally of going to war with the intelligence community ... the cost of that war is just a stunner," Patinkin told a TV critics meeting Monday. Without referring to President Donald Trump by name, the actor said "you can't have it both ways" in accepting the intelligence community's analysis when desired but dismissing its findings on 2016 election interference. □

Georgia O'Keeffe Museum is backdrop to U.S. humanities grants



National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman Jon Parrish Peede announces \$31 million in direct public grants to museums, historical sites and colleges across the country on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020, at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, N.M.

Associated Press

By MORGAN LEE

Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)

— The National Endowment for the Humanities is seeking to inspire private and local matching investments in cultural institutions as it designated \$31 million in public grants Tuesday to support humanities projects in 45 states.

Federal funding for the humanities is growing despite repeated budget proposals from President Donald Trump that suggest closing down national endowments for the arts and humanities — but haven't.

Newly endowed grant projects include \$750,000 in so-called challenge funding to add an exhibition building and create a downtown campus for the Santa Fe-based museum devoted to the life and works of American modernist painter Georgia O'Keeffe. Activating the grant will require new matching private and local government contributions of at least \$3 million to the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum.

"Generous donors love to see their names on the amphitheaters and exhibition halls, and the government can be the one that puts in the HVAC system, the fire-suppression system — the essential but non-exciting elements," National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman Jon Parrish Peede said.

Peede, a former literary magazine editor who served stints at the National Endowment for the Arts under presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, announced the new round of 188 humanities grants at a news conference in Santa Fe, flanked by O'Keeffe's iconic painted images of flowers, an adobe church spire and high-desert land and sky. The National Endowment for the Humanities has begun aligning grant spending with topics of American history and civics that tie into the upcoming 250th anniversary of U.S. independence. Peede said that hasn't limited funding for projects that highlight pre-Columbian, indigenous civilization.

Beyond infrastructure, the grants support new technologies in the humanities, including plans for an augmented reality app that recreates the features of a 13th century city, commemorated today at Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site in Illinois. About half of the new grant spending tally is earmarked for construction projects that expand the capacity of museums, historic sites, libraries, colleges and universities. Recipients run the gamut from the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming, to the St. Louis Holocaust Museum and

Learning Center.

A digital anthology of popular pre-Civil War hymns inspired by European composers will be created under fellowship awards to college and university faculty.

Local humanities councils in every state and additional U.S. territories will disburse an additional \$48 million in federal money. In Santa Fe, a hub for collectors and creators of Native American art with museums that explore worldwide cultural traditions, the O'Keeffe museum attracts an out-sized annual audience of about 200,000 visitors to a relatively small exhibition space — roughly the size of a basketball court.

That keeps much of the museum's growing collection of O'Keeffe works, writings and artifacts from her life cooped up in archives and storage, museum Director Cody Hartley said. He envisions a campus that brings together several downtown museum properties already within a two-block radius. "We're still defining that vision. But we're excited about programs like teacher education and summer school programs," he said. "The beauty of this is that with more space we can tell the story of O'Keeffe's life much more thoroughly, much more adequately using all of our collections." □

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